

Bonn to increase W. Bank aid

AMMAN (AP) — West Germany will increase its assistance to the Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied West Bank this year, an embassy official said Tuesday. The Bonn government has decided to spend 12 million West German marks (\$6.6 million) in 1987, up from 7.5 million marks (\$4.1 million) last year, embassy spokesman Rüdiger Lamp said. The aid will be in equipment and technical services. The increased aid is not a direct contribution to Jordan's five-year development scheme for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "I don't think anything will be in contradiction to the plan," Mr. Lamp said. He indicated West Germany would coordinate activities with Jordan on many projects. "The only thing they would want is if we pick projects from the (Jordanian) list, we should consult or coordinate with the main objective of preventing overlapping or double-financing," he noted. He said West Germany would "use the same channels" for aid as in the past, including the Jordanian government for some projects. The United States and Britain have made direct contributions to the five-year plan.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي

2 groups claim British army blast

LONDON (R) — An Irish guerrilla group and a West German organisation both claimed responsibility on Tuesday for a bomb blast which injured 31 people at a British army camp in West Germany Monday night. The outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, said in a statement issued in Belfast its intention had been to inflict a "devastating blow" but to avoid civilian casualties. Earlier, British Army Forces Minister John Stanley told parliament the self-styled National Democratic Front for the Liberation of West Germany had claimed responsibility for the explosion. The car bomb blew up outside the officers' mess at the Rheindahlen base, NATO's headquarters for central Europe. (See page 8). Mr. Stanley said: An organisation calling itself the National Democratic Front for the Liberation of West Germany claimed responsibility for the explosion some hours after it took place. A spokesman for West Germany's federal crime bureau, based in southwest Germany, gave a slightly different name to the group which claimed responsibility, he said it had called itself the National Democratic Front for the Liberation of Germany.

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King sends good wishes to Greece

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to Greek President Christos Sartzetakis on the occasion of Greece's Independence Day. In his cable the King wished the president continued health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the Greek people.

Cabinet okays overtime allowances

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday announced its approval for granting overtime allowance to a selected group of government employees whose work requires them to stay behind and do extra work beyond the normal office hours. A statement from the Prime Ministry said that such allowances would be granted provided these employees spent no less than two hours daily on the overtime work.

PNC speaker convokes session

TUNIS (AP) — Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh, president of the Palestine National Council (PNC), on Tuesday officially convoked the 426 members of the PNC to their 18th session, set for April 20 in Algiers.

Moscow denies having listening posts in Iran

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union denied on Tuesday that Iran had allowed the installation of Soviet listening posts to monitor operations in the Gulf and countries in the region. "This is a quite deliberate falsification of the American secret services," Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Fyadyshev told a news briefing. The American television network ABC said on Friday the Soviet Union had given Iran battlefield missiles in return for the right to operate the listening posts.

7 killed in Lahore blast

LAHORE (AP) — Police launched a massive manhunt Tuesday after a bomb exploded in a crowded political meeting, killing seven people and injuring more than 70 others. Police said the bomb exploded just before midnight Monday in a hall during a meeting of the Jamiat-i-Ahle Hadith. The powerful bomb went off on the stage as leaders of the party were speaking. Allama Ehsan Elahi Zehoor, president of the party, was among the injured.

Communists gain control in Kerala

NEW DELHI (R) — A Communist-led coalition gained control of the South Indian state of Kerala on Tuesday, ousting in state elections a ruling group headed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party. With only 12 contests to be decided, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) had secured 70 seats of the 138 seats at stake in the state assembly, marking a return to power for the Communists who were defeated by the Congress (I) coalition in five years ago. Mr. Gandhi's United Democratic Front won 54 seats and independents took two others in the latest elections.

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King and Carter discuss prospects for peace conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday conferred with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on prospects for peace in the Middle East through convening an international peace conference under United Nations auspices.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King reaffirmed Jordan's stand that peace in the region could be achieved only through an international conference attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Carter, who arrived here from Damascus on the fourth leg of a Middle East tour, reaffirmed his support for the idea of an international conference and said it was the only means for achieving just and durable peace in the Middle East, Petra said.

The King's meeting with Mr. Carter included a dinner he and Her Majesty Queen Noor hosted

in honour of the visiting former president and his wife Rosalynn. The talks between the King and Mr. Carter also covered latest Middle East developments and the Iran-Iraq war, Petra said.

Earlier, Mr. Carter was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who hosted for the former U.S. president and his wife a luncheon. The Crown Prince briefed Mr. Carter on Jordan's views on the idea for an international peace conference and the Kingdom's five-year development scheme for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, Petra said.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai also held talks with Mr. Carter on Tuesday. Mr. Rifai told Mr. Carter that the current efforts to

settle the Arab-Israeli conflict could only succeed through the called-for international conference, according to Petra.

Mr. Rifai also briefed Mr. Carter on Jordan's development scheme for the occupied territories.

Mr. Carter, who also met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, is expected to leave for Israel on Thursday for talks with Israeli leaders.

The ex-president's five-nation private Middle East tour has already taken him to Algiers and Cairo.

During his talks here, Mr. Carter is expected to discuss the U.S. policy in the area in the wake of Washington's Irangate scandal, and the situation in Lebanon.

Mr. Carter criticised Washington during his Cairo and Damascus visits, saying the Reagan administration had failed to focus attention on the Middle East. This drew counter-criticism from U.S. officials but Mr. Carter shrugged it off saying "I am a free man."

(Continued on page 3)

Fadlallah denounces hostage-taking as kidnappers step up pressure

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Lebanese Shiite Muslim religious leader on Tuesday condemned hostage-taking after pro-Iranian kidnappers renewed demands on the United States, France and Israel.

"It is not right to deprive a human being of freedom just because we disagree with his government," Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, who has influence with the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), told Visnews television.

Political sources in west Beirut say Hizbollah holds some of the 25 foreigners missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

Sheikh Fadlallah spoke after meeting Marc Normandin, father of French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin, at his home in Bir Al Abed, a Shiite district in southern Beirut.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation seized Mr. Normandin and three other French Antenne-2 television crewmen in

March 1986 after they had filmed a Hizbollah rally addressed by Sheikh Fadlallah.

Mr. Normandin, 35, said on a video tape released by his captors Monday night that Sheikh Fadlallah's intervention had helped to persuade his captors to delay a one-week deadline for killing him.

He said the underground group had "respected its agreements in freeing my three comrades and other hostages" and warned that unless the French government did likewise "much blood will flow."

He gave no details of the alleged deals. His colleagues were freed last year after France embarked on a policy of improving ties with Iran, which had been strained by French support for Iraq.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said U.S. hostage Alann Steen, a 47-year-old communications instructor, might die of an unspecified illness within 10 days.

Kidnap group renews threat

BEIRUT (R) — An underground group said an "execution sentence" on French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin was still possible and has not been delayed or cancelled. A typewritten statement by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation delivered to Beirut's An Nahar newspaper said: "The execution sentence against Normandin has not been delayed or cancelled and is a possibility at any time."

Mr. Normandin appeared in a video tape on Monday and said his kidnappers had delayed a one-week deadline set last Tuesday for his "execution."

It promised Monday night to send a video tape of him within 72 hours and said it might free him for "humanitarian motives" if the United States induced Israel to release 100 Arab prisoners. (Continued on page 3)

Rabin rejects report of CIA spying

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday rejected a press report that the United States planted a spy in Israeli intelligence during the 1982 Lebanon invasion.

The Jerusalem Post last week quoted a U.S. senator as saying the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) hired an Israeli army officer to spy in 1982, two years before Israel's recruited Jonathan Pollard, a U.S. navy analyst jailed for life this month for spying for Israel.

The senator, David Durenberger, is a former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"I have checked this matter with the Israeli army and the general security services, and they do not know of one single case of that kind," participants quoted Mr. Rabin as telling a closed meeting of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

Israel has "apologised" to the United States for the Pollard spy operation and said it was carried out by a now-disbanded intelligence unit in its defence ministry. The United States this month indicted an Israeli air force colonel implicated in the affair and Israelis fear additional indictments. Two Israeli committees, one of parliament and one government-appointed, are investigating.

Rafsanjani renews warning to U.S. against Gulf action

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, warned the United States Tuesday that if it launched an attack in the Gulf "Americans will be unsafe throughout the world."

In a Tehran Radio interview he declared: "The events in Lebanon could be repeated for the Americans around the world." He was referring to attacks by pro-Iranian suicide bombers against the U.S. embassy in Beirut and marine headquarters in 1983 in which more than 300 people were killed.

Since then, extremists have kidnapped 15 Americans in Beirut. Eight are still held.

Mr. Rafsanjani reiterated that Tehran would intervene with the kidnappers to free the hostages if the United States released several billion dollars' worth of Iranian assets frozen by Washington.

His remarks came amid rising tension in the war-torn Gulf over Iran's reported deployment of anti-ship missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, and fears Iran may try to close the strategic waterway (see related stories on page 2).

Mr. Rafsanjani, in the latest in a string of warnings by Iranian leaders, also referred to the abortive 1980 U.S. attempt to rescue American hostages in Tehran. Eight American servicemen were killed at Tabas, 320

kilometres south of the Iranian capital at a staging base code-named Desert One, when a helicopter crashed into a transport plane. Sandstorms had earlier forced down U.S. assault helicopters.

"The Americans once tested (themselves) in Tabas," Mr. Rafsanjani declared. "But the storms in the Persian Gulf are much stronger than in Tabas. We are also more prepared now."

Referring to U.S. military action over the Strait of Hormuz, he added: "Of course we don't want this to happen. We're not making threats."

"But we are warning the American people to tie the hands of their leaders. They (U.S. leaders) have no balance and have political problems at home."

"Perhaps to undermine these domestic problems they're saying such things (about Iran). But these things won't solve their internal problems," he added.

That was an apparent reference to the crisis that has engulfed President Ronald Reagan's administration over disclosures, first made by Mr. Rafsanjani Nov. 4, that Mr. Reagan had sanctioned secret arms sales to Iran. Referring to U.S. official's comments and the deployment of a U.S. naval battle group in the Arabian Sea, within striking distance of the Strait of Hormuz, (Continued on page 2)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor receive former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn on Tuesday. Earlier His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with Mr. Carter (photo below)



Egypt and U.S. review ways to push peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — A U.S. State Department expert on the Middle East conferred Tuesday with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid on ways of pushing Middle East peace efforts.

Mr. Abdul Meguid spent an hour with Wat Cluervius, senior adviser on Middle East peace to Richard Murphy, an assistant secretary of state. Mr. Cluervius arrived Monday night from Israel.

A Foreign Ministry official said the talks dealt with "ways to activate peace efforts in the region and various ideas to this end in the light of increased interest among most of the parties concerned in an international conference."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity under ministry rules, said the proposed international conference was "the practical method to conduct negotiations for a comprehensive

and fair settlement of the Middle East problem."

Mr. Mubarak on Tuesday received Hani Al Hassan, political adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Al-Hassan said on arrival in Cairo Monday that he carried a message from Mr. Arafat to Mr. Mubarak but gave no details.

Though Mr. Cluervius declined to comment on his talks with Mr. Abdul Meguid, a U.S. diplomat said his visit "is part of the continuing process of periodical exchanges and U.S. efforts to move forward the peace process."

A Foreign Ministry statement said "all different proposals were discussed, especially in the light of an increasing interest in an international conference by most parties..."

Diplomats said Washington, which previously opposed a conference, was now showing willingness to explore the possibility.

Israel reportedly rejected U.S. request for \$30m aid for West Bank

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel turned down a U.S. request for \$30 million to be used for development projects on the West Bank, a government official confirmed Monday.

The \$30 million would have come out of the \$3 billion in U.S. aid to Israel, with the administration then asking Congress to replenish the funds, said the official of President Ronald Reagan's administration.

But the Israeli government, concerned that the budget squeeze might deter Congress from approving new aid, turned down the request, the official said.

The development projects would be implemented by Jordan under the Kingdom's five-year development scheme for the occupied territories.

The account of the Israeli rejection appeared in Newsweek magazine and was confirmed by the official only on condition he not be identified.

Charles Redman, State Department spokesman, said that there was no such secret West Bank development policy as reported in Newsweek.

Redman said that the United States "supports Jordan's West Bank development programme."

The Reagan administration has requested \$7 million for it in the 1988 budget, and over the last two years the United States has provided \$12 million for this programme, he noted. In addition, a number of other donors have supported the programme, he said.

Pakistan says 92 killed in Afghan raids

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan warplanes struck for a second time in a day, killing 22 people and injuring 26 in a remote Pakistani border village, official Radio Pakistan said Tuesday.

The radio quoted a Defence Ministry spokesman as saying the six planes bombed Angur Adar in the south Waziristan tribal area on the mountainous border on Monday.

Pakistan's Soviet-backed government has denied previous charges of bombing territory in neighbouring Pakistan, where Afghan rebels have their main bases.

The political agent for Khurram area to the north said the death toll from the two bombing raids on Teri Mangal town on

Monday had risen to at least 70 as more bodies were dug out of ruined buildings.

The agent, Masood Ur Rahman, said on Monday that 51 Afghan refugees and local Pakistanis had been killed in the raids, which he blamed on Afghanistan.

The raids came on Pakistan's National Day, as President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and other armed forces chiefs were watching a military parade in Rawalpindi, near Islamabad.

Western diplomats described the raids as a slap in the face for the Pakistani government and said they were certain to irritate the military here.

The attacks came less than four weeks after two raids in similar areas killed some 90 people, according to Pakistan. But the

Afghan government denied responsibility.

Two villages in north Waziristan were bombed on Feb. 26 and a refugee camp a short distance from Teri Mangal was attacked the following day.

Radio Pakistan said Angur Adar was attacked at about 9.45 a.m. on Monday.

The dead were 11 Pakistanis and 11 Afghans, it said. About three million Afghans have fled the eight-year-old guerrilla war in their country to seek refuge in Pakistan and many live in remote parts of the frontier region.

In January 1984, 45 people were killed and 60 injured when the village was hit by an Afghan bomb and rocket attack, according to Pakistani authorities.

18 held, more sought in Freetown coup plot

FREETOWN (R) — Eighteen people were being held in Sierra Leone's main jail on Tuesday as a nationwide search was mounted for a government minister following Monday's coup attempt, government sources said.

A senior minister was being sought in connection with the plot, the sources said, but they declined to give his name.

Heavily-armed security guards sealed off Pademba Road prison in the centre of the coastal capital Freetown and blocked off traffic.

The head of Sierra Leone's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) told Reuters more than 16 people, including Joseph Kai Kai, the man believed to have been behind the plot, had been detained in the jail.

Police later said a senior military official and police officer were also being held.

CID head Prince Cole declined to comment on rumours sweeping Freetown that leading government members were involved in the attempted coup, the most serious attempt to oust President

Joseph Momoh since he took power in November 1985.

Police sources said Sergeant-Major Samuel Dorwin, who used to work for Sierra Leone's anti-smuggling squad, and Assistant Police Superintendent William Benjamin, who was in charge of Freetown's eastern police station, were among those arrested.

Freetown was quiet on Tuesday with no visible evidence of police or army personnel on the streets apart from the area near Pademba prison.

Following a gun battle early Monday morning in the west of the city, Momoh loyalists seized a large cache of arms, ammunition, military equipment and uniforms at the home of Mr. Kai Kai's wife, Amy, a former minister who was recently stripped of her seat in Sierra Leone's parliament.

One loyal member of Sierra Leone's para-military forces was shot dead during the gun battle, which lasted over two hours, according to an official statement issued Monday.

Mr. Momoh, a career soldier who had been commander of the army, took over in this former British colony in November 1985 in one of Africa's relatively rare peaceful transfers of power.

Mr. Momoh, formerly the head of Sierra Leone's army, took over from the country's veteran leader Siaka Stevens.

But his initial popularity fell as the former British colony's economic problems mounted.

Sierra Leonean parliamentarians on Monday pledged their support for Mr. Momoh and condemned the coup attempt.

A statement issued by the country's back benchers' association condemned the action of unidentified gunmen "who attempted to overthrow the constitutionally elected government of Sierra Leone by force of arms."

It called on the government to carry out an immediate investigation into the affair and to bring to justice all those who directly or indirectly aided the plotters.

U.S. offers protection to Kuwaiti tankers in Gulf, awaits reply

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has made a formal offer to provide military protection to Kuwaiti tankers in the troubled Gulf waters to meet possible threats from Iran, government sources have said.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said the government is awaiting a reply from the United States, which initially approached the United States about providing protection for its oil tankers some time ago.

At that time, however, Kuwait raised the possibility of Soviet involvement, which was met with little enthusiasm in Washington, one source said.

"In the early stages, the Kuwaitis talked of trying to secure Soviet as well as U.S. protection," said the source. "They also expressed some interest in shipping some of their oil on Soviet tankers."

The source said the United States was not interested in pursuing that route, adding, "we want to minimise Soviet influence in the region."

Kuwait has aligned itself with Iraq in Iraq's war with Iran. As a result, ships handling Kuwaiti oil and cargo have become a target of Iranian attacks.

According to the sources, the United States made an offer to Kuwait of U.S. protection, without Soviet involvement, to 11 tankers Kuwait controls in the region.

Protection of the ships would require final explicit approval from the White House. That has not yet been given, and the United States has not begun protecting any foreign ships in the region, the sources said.

Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said on Sunday the United States was prepared to protect oil tankers in the Gulf against Iranian attacks and is

drawing up contingency plans for military action.

"It's been the policy of the United States... that we need to have the freedom to navigate, and our friends and allies need to have the opportunity to send shipments without being shot at and without having their ships destroyed," Mr. Weinberger said.

U.S. military planners recently have expressed concern over missile batteries installed by the Iranians. The land-based, Chinese-made HY-2 missiles are considered a threat to the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow entrance to the Gulf.

About 20 per cent of the non-Communist world's oil passes through the strait, which has been threatened since the Iran-Iraq war began in 1980.

Iran's President Ali Khamenei has accused the United States of causing trouble in the Gulf by deploying warships to counter the missile threat.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted him as saying Monday: "If we have missiles in our possession this does not mean we intend to create insecurity in the region. Rather, it is the U.S. presence in the Gulf region which creates insecurity."

Tehran Radio on Sunday quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Iran will "decisively counter" any foreign presence that increases instability and tension in the region.

U.S. sources revealed last week that U.S. Navy ships assigned to the Mideast task force

to patrol the Gulf may soon begin escorting commercial tankers and cargo ships destined for Kuwait.

The United States now has 18 warships in or near the Gulf. U.S. officials told Reuters Monday that the offer to Kuwait was made last week by navy Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Pentagon Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a Middle East visit.

Reagan administration officials said later that Washington did not seek military confrontation with Tehran, but would not let Iran use Chinese-made "Silkworm" anti-ship missiles to choke off oil shipments crucial to the West.

"There are no plans and no desire for any confrontation here," and administration officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

"But there is obviously a message here that we would take very seriously the use of those missiles around the Straits of Hormuz."

A top Defence Department official has said the United States considers transportation of oil through the Gulf "vital" to the international community, and it has "sufficient force" to keep the waterway open to international shipping.

"The transit of oil from the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz has been something that several successive presidents have spoken to, all terming it 'absolutely vital to keep free access to the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz clean... and open to international shipping,'" Richard Armitage, assistant secretary of defence for international security affairs, said Monday at a Washington Foreign Press Centre briefing.

"We have sufficient force on station or in the area to assure that this will be done," he added.

Recent tensions stem from Iran's acquisition of the "Silk-

worm" missile from China, which "raises the possibility of Iranian disruptions to shipping," Mr. Armitage said. "The Silkworm is an anti-ship missile. It has quite a good extended range of 40-50 miles. So that's why we're concerned about this new development; it's tough to defend against."

He noted that Kuwait "has suffered greatest of all from the shipping attacks in the Gulf" and said the United States is sympathetic to it. "If Kuwait makes an official request," the United States would listen "with a sympathetic ear," he said.

Asked by a reporter about the "real scenario" in the Gulf, vis-a-vis Iran-Iraq involvement, Mr. Armitage said, "In warfare there are belligerent rights... (and) also, under international law, non-belligerent rights. I note that the Iraqis have struck shipping, primarily Iranian shipping; that is, shipping belonging to a belligerent. The other side is that the Iranian attacks have been on non-belligerents and, to the greatest extent, directed against Kuwaiti tankers — they're the most prolific."

"When we talk about tension in the region, we're talking about the imbalance that might occur should one or the other of the combatants be victorious. Certainly a conflict in which Iran is victorious is one which augurs very poorly for all of our moderate Arab friends, and certainly our Israeli friends, and is to be frowned upon."

"...An Iraqi total victory... could be destabilising in its own way. That's why we decry the violence as we want to return to the status quo... with no victor or no vanquished. We see no way with a victor in which the equation in the Middle East won't become somewhat unbalanced."

Mr. Rafsanjani noted: "What is the purpose of the American noises now? We've had coast-to-sea missiles for a while. 'If the Strait of Hormuz is going to be closed, then there's no need for missiles.' We can close it with artillery."

"Whether the Strait of Hormuz is open or closed, the entire Persian Gulf is within our range of fire. This American ballyhoo will not solve anything," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Mr. Rafsanjani disclosed that Washington had warned Iran through the Swiss embassy in Tehran against using the mobile batteries of Chinese-made HY-2 missiles reportedly sited on the northern shore of the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the U.S. message also concerned "affairs in Lebanon and hostages in Lebanon."

King Fahd arrives in London

LONDON (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia received a red carpet welcome as he began a lavish four-day state visit to Britain.

Queen Elizabeth sent the Prince and Princess of Wales to Gatwick Airport to meet the king as he flew in aboard his personal Boeing 747. She was at Victoria Station herself ready to greet the 65-year-old monarch as he arrived in the capital by train.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other royal and government officials were also at the station.

King Fahd was accompanied by an entourage of about 100 people including key government aides and his 13-year-old son Prince Fahd, said to be the richest boy in the world.

Buckingham Palace spokesman said the tradition of inspecting the Guard of Honour was waived because the king had trouble walking. The Saudi monarch was to be driven by carriage to Buckingham Palace.

When he is not being entertained by Britain's royalty, the king and his oil, health and trade ministers will hold talks on arms, trade, oil and the Middle East with British ministers.

King Fahd may also act as an envoy by asking Britain to restore its diplomatic ties with Syria, which were broken off last October.

British officials said the king will be told Britain has no plans to restore relations unless Syria provides proof that it is no longer "involved in terrorist activities."

They have denied British press reports this week that Britain's biggest arms export deal, to provide Saudi Arabia with 132 warplanes including 72 Tornado fighters, is running into trouble over Britain's slowness to provide Riyadh with countertrade deals.

Officials say the subject of countertrade to redress Saudi Arabia's trade deficit with Britain following the \$5 billion (\$8 billion) deal, will be discussed by the trade ministers of both countries when they meet on Thursday.

Britain exported \$1.5 billion (\$2.4 billion) worth of goods to Saudi Arabia last year while British imports from that country in the same period totalled \$436 million (\$693 million).

British officials say Mrs. Thatcher will emphasise Britain's support for an international conference on the Middle East when she meets King Fahd on Thursday. She will also stress that Britain does not intend to budge from its refusal to limit North Sea oil production and exports if the subject is raised, they said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has asked all oil-producing countries to help stabilise oil prices at \$18 a barrel by curbing output and exports.

The Royal Train carrying King Fahd with Prince Charles and Princess Diana was halted for 20 minutes while police dealt with a suspicious object on a railroad bridge, Buckingham Palace said.

Arab woman who had miscarriage in Israeli police custody freed

TEL AVIV (R) — A Palestinian woman who says she miscarried because of rough treatment by police questioning her for alleged guerrilla activity has been freed on bail, an Israeli army spokesman said Tuesday.

Naila Ibrahim Ayyesh, a 26-year-old medical laboratory technician from Gaza, was ordered released Monday by a Ramallah military court on health grounds and because her alleged offences took place four years ago, the spokesman said. Bail was 1,000 shekels (\$620).

Ms. Ayyesh's lawyer, Israeli leftist Felicia Langer, said the re-

lease was unprecedented in nearly 20 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and was presumably the result of media attention.

"It was beautiful. In nearly 20 years of handling such cases, I never once had a client held for membership of an outlawed organisation released on bail. Certainly media attention made a great difference," Langer told Reuters.

Ms. Ayyesh last week said in an affidavit to Langer she was several weeks pregnant when arrested on Feb. 19 on suspicion of being a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine

(DFLP) guerrilla group in 1983. She said she miscarried in police custody after haemorrhaging and vomiting when left outside in the cold and having her head slammed once against a wall.

Police initially said she was not pregnant. But they have since allowed Langer to choose a Palestinian doctor to perform tests to see if Ms. Ayyesh did miscarry. Langer said the results were not yet received.

Langer said she demanded a police investigation. Some 140 Israeli professional women submitted a petition saying they were shocked by the woman's

Libya denies having troops in Sudan

LONDON (R) — Libya denied Tuesday it had any troops in Sudan but said Chadian rebels fighting the N'djamena government of President Hissene Habre were present there.

Sudan's Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi accused Libya in Khartoum Monday of launching attacks against Chad from Sudanese territory and said Libyan troops were still in Sudan despite demands for their withdrawal.

The political editor of the official Libyan News Agency JANA said in a statement: "We stress that there are no Libyan forces in Sudan at all except the forces of the (Chadian rebel) Democratic Revolutionary Council and some other Chadian detachments which are fighting the agent Habre."

The N'djamena government has accused Libyan troops of fighting in support of rebel forces in northern Chad.

The JANA political editor, in the statement monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), expressed surprise at what he said were comments reportedly made by Mr. Mahdi.

He said Libya believed the remarks had been "falsely attributed to Mahdi in a desperate attempt by the imperialist forces and their lackeys in the region, led by the treacherous Egyptian regime, to sow dissension between Libya and Sudan."

Mr. Mahdi, who is also Sudan's

defence minister, told parliament that between 700 and 1,000 Libyan troops with 400 trucks and armed with rocket launchers and heavy weapons were still in Sudan.

He said they would be dealt with "in a way that will preserve Sudan's national security and territorial safety."

Libya and Chad border Sudan to the west.

Egypt urges Libyan pullout

In Cairo, Egypt called on Libya Tuesday to withdraw its troops from Chad and concentrate its efforts on economic development at home.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters: "We ask Libya again to put an end to its aggression and withdraw its troops from Chad and respect the country's regional unity."

"Economic development, not the invasion of Chad, should be the crucial battle facing the Libyan people," he added.

In N'djamena, Chad has accused Libya of launching attacks on Chadian government troops from Sudanese soil in the latest twist to Chad's 20-year-old war.

Chad said Monday troops loyal to President Hissene Habre drove Libyan soldiers back into Sudan after they launched a weekend attack on the villages of Adde, Tine and Koulbous on the Sudan-Chad frontier.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Libya was reinforcing its troops in Sudan, south east of Chad, and warned that Chad's army would be "authorised from now on to follow aggressors wherever they find refuge until they are no longer a threat."

Chad called on Sudan to face up to its responsibilities in the face of the Libyan presence. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted Mr. Mahdi as saying Sudan had given Libyan troops an unspecified deadline to withdraw.

Chadians celebrated in N'djamena Monday after the fall on Sunday of the key Libyan air base of Ouadi Doum.

Chad's official media said the reported victory had removed a key barrier to what it termed the total liberation of its territory from Libyan occupation.

U.S. praises Chad victory

In Washington, U.S. officials said Monday Chadian forces captured substantial amounts of sophisticated weaponry when they routed some 5,000 Libyan troops and captured Ouadi Doum.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the Chadian forces took only a few hours Sunday night to seize the Ouadi Doum air base, built in the northern desert by Libya between 1983 and 1985 and garrisoned by some 5,000 troops.

The Libyans are just crumbling. They have lots of equipment but are not fighting at all well," one official said.

The officials told Reuters the forces of President Hissene Habre seized aircraft and helicopters, tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery.

They said Washington did not yet have details of the captured equipment, but Soviet-built aircraft, including some MiG-23 fighters, Sukhoi bombers and Antonov transport planes had been based at Ouadi Doum.

They said the base was being used as an assembly point for what Tripoli called the "Fada Liberation Group" to recapture the oasis town of Fada taken by Mr. Habre's forces in January.

Iran test fires missile in Hormuz Strait

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran has test-fired its newly acquired Silkworm anti-ship missile in the Strait of Hormuz and was set up at least two land-based launching sites in the area, a British naval source in the Gulf said Tuesday.

The source, who declined to be identified, said Iran had fired the Chinese-made missile at a bulk oil ship in the southern Gulf port of Bandar Abbas and scored a hit.

"These missiles pack a fairly big punch," he told Reuters. "There is no doubt they could be used to target (shipping) across the Strait of Hormuz."

Britain has increased its naval presence in the region with the arrival four days ago of a third warship, a type-42 missile-armed destroyer, the source added.

Tension in the Gulf — a strategic outlet for oil supplies to the West — has risen since U.S. officials last week broke the news that Iran had acquired the Silkworm missiles.

The United States has said it

will not allow Iran to use the missiles to choke off oil shipments and has offered its warships to escort Kuwaiti tankers past the missile batteries.

But Tehran denied last Sunday it intended to threaten Gulf shipping and warned the United States any interference in the region would meet a strong response.

The British naval source said the Silkworms were in place at least two sites around the Strait of Hormuz, but would not give the exact location.

The missiles, capable of carrying a 450-kilogram warhead, have a range of 80 kilometres, and allow Iran to threaten shipping across the 38-kilometre-wide strait.

The United States now has some 24 warships in or within striking distance of the Gulf, including the 81,000-tonne Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier; with about 85 warplanes on board, U.S. officials said.

The U.S. offer to escort Kuwaiti oil tankers — a regular target for Iranian gunboat attacks in the Gulf — was made last week by Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Pentagon Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a Middle East visit.

Almost 100 ships were attacked in the Gulf last year as Iraq tried to block Iranian oil exports and Iran countered by striking at other vessels, particularly those of Gulf Arab states backing Baghdad in its 6½-year-old war with Tehran.

The pace of attacks has shown little sign of slackening this year with Iraq saying it hit an Iranian tanker Monday.

In addition to U.S. and British warships, French and Soviet vessels are patrolling the waterway. French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond said in Abu Dhabi Monday: "France is keen to see... freedom of navigation."

Rafsanjani renews warning

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rafsanjani noted: "What is the purpose of the American noises now? We've had coast-to-sea missiles for a while. 'If the Strait of Hormuz is going to be closed, then there's no need for missiles.' We can close it with artillery."

"Whether the Strait of Hormuz is open or closed, the entire Persian Gulf is within our range of fire. This American ballyhoo will not solve anything," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Mr. Rafsanjani disclosed that Washington had warned Iran through the Swiss embassy in Tehran against using the mobile batteries of Chinese-made HY-2 missiles reportedly sited on the northern shore of the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the U.S. message also concerned "affairs in Lebanon and hostages in Lebanon."

TV & RADIO

| JORDAN TELEVISION | 21-24 | 25-28 |
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| Tel: 77111-19 | 21-25 News Summary | 21-25 Evening Show Continued |
| PROGRAMME ONE | 21-25 News Summary | 21-25 Evening Show Continued |
| 15:30 Koran | 21-25 News Summary | 21-25 Evening Show Continued |
| 16:00 Children's (Films) | 21-25 News Summary | 21-25 Evening Show Continued |
| 16:10 Walt Disney | 21-25 News Summary | 21-25 Evening Show Continued |
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European experts assess UNRWA's operations

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad Qatanani Tuesday conferred with a team of European experts visiting Jordan in the course of a tour of the Middle East region to inspect the fields of operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Dr. Qatanani spoke on his ministry's activities and services for the refugees in the East Bank of Jordan and its cooperation with UNRWA. Palestinian refugees in the East Bank are housed in 13 camps, six of which were set up as emergency centres after the 1967 war in order to house displaced Palestinians forced to flee their homes on the West Bank, Dr. Qatanani pointed out.

He said that the problem of both the displaced West Bankers and the Palestinian refugees rests with the international community which ought to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the future of the Palestinian people and their rights in their homeland.

Referring to UNRWA's financial problems, Dr. Qatanani said that these difficulties have impeded the agency's operations and UNRWA's annual budget is not enough to deal with the huge responsibilities it is shouldering towards the refugees.

Dr. Qatanani referred to the situation in the Israeli-held Arab territory and said that the Israeli authorities are intent on carrying out measures to evict the Arab inhabitants and remove Palestinian camps in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The three-member team groups experts from Switzerland, Sweden and Canada and their mission is to assess UNRWA's operations and relief work in the agency's field of operations in the Middle East region. Following their stay in Jordan the team will go on to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Syria.

Queen Noor presents certificates to graduates of English teaching

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, chairman of the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education (RECE), distributed certificates on Tuesday to 190 Ministry of Education teachers graduating from the endowment-sponsored training courses for teachers of English. These courses seek to raise the level of teachers' language proficiency and to improve their current teaching methodology, a press release said.

Organised by the language centres at Yarmouk and Jordan universities, the British Council and the Centre for Language Studies, these training courses have been sponsored and supported since 1984 by the Royal Endowment, which was established in 1980 to assess and meet needs in the fields of education, culture and the arts.

After the distribution ceremony, Queen Noor chaired a meeting of the evaluation committee to discuss a plan developed for future training courses.



Her Majesty Queen Noor on Tuesday presents certificates to graduates of an English-teaching course sponsored by the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education. To the Queen's left is University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali (Petra photo)

Queen Noor also visited with teachers enrolled in the university's 18-month diploma course Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL).

The Royal Endowment will provide diploma class scholarships to selected students from those graduates of the endowment-sponsored training courses.

Soviet parliamentarians arrive on week-long visit

Delegation leader says Soviet Union backs Jordan's call for international conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Supreme Soviet, led by Mr. Vladimir Orlov, arrived in Amman Tuesday on a week-long visit to Jordan at the invitation of Mr. Akef Al Fayed, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

In a statement upon arrival Mr. Orlov commended Soviet-Jordanian relations over the past 25 years, describing them as based on mutual respect and co-existence. He said that the delegation's visit to Jordan is in line with the two countries' desire to promote cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

In view of the escalation of world tension and the threat of nuclear conflicts, parliamentarians should work closer together and with all peace-loving forces to avert such dangers, Mr. Orlov said. The delegation's visit, he continued, is the fourth of its kind to Jordan and visits by these delegations aim to bolstering mutual confidence and deepening understanding and friendship between the two countries and their parliaments.

In reply to a question about Moscow's efforts to convene an international peace conference to resolve the Middle East problem, Mr. Orlov said that his country fully appreciates Jordan's call for such a conference and that such a call is in line with the Soviet Union's view. It was the Soviet

Union which first proposed such a conference to help reach a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and it proposed the formation of a preparatory committee comprising all parties to the conflict and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Mr. Orlov added. He said that Moscow appreciates Jordan's intensive efforts for convening this conference and supports such efforts. Israel and those

which support it are opposing the will of the international community and obstructing the course of international justice, Mr. Orlov added. He said that the Soviet Union condemns Israel's expansionist policies, demands an end to its occupation of Arab land and supports the just struggle of the Arab people for their liberation and independence.

During their visit to Jordan, the Soviet delegation will meet with the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament and Parliament members to discuss subjects related to the Middle East problem. They will also tour archaeological sites in the Kingdom.



Mr. Vladimir Orlov, head of a Soviet parliamentary delegation which arrived here on Tuesday, speaks to a Petra correspondent upon arrival (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

JNRCS receives donations for refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) has started receiving in-kind donations from various Jordanian individuals and organisations for the benefit of residents of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura announced here Tuesday. He said that the donations were in response to a JNRCS call a few days ago for help to be given by Jordanian people to the residents of the embattled camps in Lebanon.

Shuneh graduates People's Army cadets

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — A group of People's Army recruits graduated here on Tuesday after completing a training course in the use of light arms and first aid. The 305 member group, the 15th to be turned out in the Jordan Valley region, has had 23 days of training and lectures on civil defence work. They presented a performance of their skills at the graduation ceremony which was attended by the People's Army commander.

Mayor to attend ACO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Municipality will take part in the 26th meeting of the standing office of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO), due to open in Damascus on April 4. Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh will accompany two members of the Greater Amman Council to the meeting which will discuss a number of topics related to the programmes of the ACO and past achievements. The meeting is expected to last three days.

Solar-technical team to convene Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab technical committee in charge of studying the application of solar energy will open a meeting at the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (ASMO) on Saturday. The three-day meeting will discuss the organisation's plans and projects connected with solar heaters used for domestic purposes. Taking part in the meeting are delegates from Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and a number of Arab organisations. The participants will also visit the solar heating centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Jordan to host WHO seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has agreed to host a seminar in Amman next month under the World Health Organisation's (WHO) supervision. The seminar will discuss working papers dealing with strengthening existing cooperation among Mediterranean countries in health fields.

The changing face of Arab literature in the U.S.

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Major contributions by Arab immigrants to Arab literature and the intellectual movement were the themes of a presentation by a prominent Arab-American literary expert, Dr. Paul Amash, at the American Cultural Centre on Sunday evening.

Dr. Amash, a lecturer on Comparative Arab Literature at the American University in Washington, gave a historical analysis of the factors which led to the emergence of a prominent literary movement among the first generation of Arab immigrants in the U.S. and the prevailing political and socio-economic conditions which defined the identity and themes of works by Arab immigrants.

Works by influential Arab-American writers, such as Jibril Khalil Jibran, Mikhail Niyemeh and Elia Abu Madi, were discussed in terms of both their literary value, their role as a link between the Arab World, and the Arab immigrants in the U.S. and their "modernising" influence on Arab literature in general.

In his lecture, Dr. Amash noted that most, if not the only, prominent immigrant novelists and poets who wrote in Arabic emerged from the first generation of immigrants who went to the U.S. at the turn of this century and sought to keep a link with "the homeland" by expressing themselves in Arabic. The political developments in the Arab World, and particularly the creation of Israel in Palestine in 1948, shifted the immigrants' interest from literature to politics, he said.

Seen in this light, Dr. Amash divided the life of the immigrants in the U.S. in terms of the change in their perspective of the developments in the Arab World and their own role, into three stages.

The first stage started at the end of the Nineteenth Century until 1948. During that stage the new immigrants showed immense interest in the Arabic language which "was both a link between the immigrants and the Arab World and a manifestation of their commitment to the Arab identity and, at times, nationalism," Dr. Amash said.

It was in those years that many Arabic literary magazines, newspapers and societies were founded and when some of the best Arab writers, historians, poets and novelists appeared. Of these, the Lebanese writer and poet, Jibril Khalil Jibran, became the most famous and influential on Arabic and even American literature. In Dr. Amash's view, Jibran's tremendous success in America and the West was due to a number of factors: the fact that Jibran wrote in English as well as in Arabic and thus "he was able to achieve his goal of reaching a broader audience and to convey the occidental culture to the Americans and the West" — the universal themes and ideals contained in his prose and his poems.

Jibran's works, which were full with emotions and as Dr. Amash argued appeared at a time when America was looking for "spiritual inspiration." Most of Jibran's writings were published in the late twenties when America, hard hit by severe economic depression, was "demoralised and in dire need of a spark of hope to rejuvenate the nation." Jibran's works had exactly this effect and "they are still a source of inspiration to the Americans until this day," Dr. Amash said. He pointed out that Jibran's English language book "The Prophet" is still the most widely sold book in the U.S. "The Prophet" sells around 3000-4000 copies a week and has been published 117 times since it first appeared.

Jibran, however, has left an important influence on Arabic literature itself since he was the first to produce "modern poetry to the Arabic literature." As for Niyemeh and Abu Madi, their influence was mainly on Arab literature and had little effect on the American literary movement. Mr. Niyemeh, who is now 98 years old and back in Lebanon, wrote his major novels when left the U.S., while the American public could not relate to Abu Madi's poems, especially since they did not translate well into English. Dr. Amash told the Jordan Times that one of the reasons that impeded the spread

of Abu Madi's poems in the States was because "of the instigating nature and explicit condemnation of the rich and the powerful which tainted them with a socialist tone."

Abu Madi's poems, however, are still very popular in the Arab World and his scathing criticism and cynical mockery of class and social distinctions have actually been the most appealing feature of his writing to the Arab people, according to many literary experts.

The second phase of the life of the Arab immigrants in the U.S. and which had affected their contribution to the literature, started with the creation of Israel and the loss of Palestine. "It left the Arabs in the U.S. with a deep feeling of shock," Dr. Amash said.

Consequently, politics became the main concern of the Arabs, many of whom felt, "that literature was not going to help them liberate Palestine." The Arab immigrants interest in language and literature slowly but steadily lessened but at the same time their shift to politics was not translated into action. "Instead, the Arabs were misled by the extremely inaccurate and exaggerated reports and statements by the Arab leaders and press concerning the Arab military might and their preparations to liberate Palestine," said Dr. Amash, who was born in the city of Jaffa but emigrated at an early age to the U.S. where he pursued his higher education.

Therefore, the Arab defeat during the 1967 war with Israel was a disastrous setback "which shattered the immigrants dreams of a near liberation of Palestine."

But in Dr. Amash's view, the 1967 defeat, which marked the beginning of the third stage, according to his classification, was "a turning point in the approach of Arab-Americans towards political involvement and organisation."

"They suddenly felt the need and the importance of political involvement and organisation," he said. Since then, many Arab organisations were established in the U.S. with the goals of protecting the Arab community's rights in the U.S.

Students draw warm applause with successful staging of Pygmalion

By Rania Mubarak
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The modernised version of "Pygmalion," a classic play more popularly known as "My Fair Lady," concluded a three-day successful run at the Royal Cultural Centre on Tuesday.

The play was performed by teenagers from the National Orthodox School, and although the oldest member of the cast was only 17 years old, it was clear that these young men and women had set their hearts on performing as well as they could. Director Kay Mukhar added: "They have risen above my highest expectations."

The actors are amateurs, some even standing on a stage for the first time in their life, each and everyone in the cast performed well, especially Rania Kurdi in the role of Eliza Doolittle, who was taken in by a Professor Higgins (outstandingly performed by Haytham Abdelnour) who succeeded in changing her from a flower girl and passing her off as a princess, through changing her behaviour, manner of speech and accent. It was noticeable that the cockney English spoken by Eliza and her father was well done and sounded authentic although the mixture of American, English



Students at the National Orthodox School performing Pygmalion (Photo by Zohrab)

and Arab accents was sometimes irritating and broke the flow of the play.

The make-up (done by Kay Mukhar and Adiba Kurdi) was professional work by itself, for every one of the actors was made up to convey a clear idea about his/her age and character, which helped the audience to get into the mood and pace of the play.

The graceful entrance to the auditorium by Eliza the flower girl at the beginning of the play to

distribute flowers to the audience with a cheerful smile was indeed impressive and drew loud applause.

On the whole the audience was impressed by this new venture by the National Orthodox School, which has in the past produced and presented several other plays. The general impression was that the young actors had worked hard for two months and had produced something that was really worth watching.

Pharmacists to hold scientific day, lectures on antibiotics

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Pharmacists' Association (JPA) will organise a scientific day on Thursday at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman in observance of Arab Pharmacists Day. JPA President Ghalib Sabbarini said that the day commemorates the establishment of the Arab Pharmacists Federation in the city of Jerusalem on April 2, 1966.

He told a press conference that Arab pharmacists' unions have been observing the occasion every year by holding conferences and seminars and that the JPA held a conference in observance of the occasion last year.

This year's function will be totally devoted to antibiotics because of their importance, and a number of specialists will deliver lectures on this subject, explaining the health risk of using antibiotics without medical advice, Mr. Sabbarini added. He said that the role of pharmacists and the dispensary of antibiotics by pharmacists will be discussed in a series of open dialogues that will be held on Thursday in a number of regions.

King meets former U.S. president

(Continued from page 1)

In a press conference he held in Damascus earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Carter urged flexibility by all sides to promote an international Middle East peace conference.

"As long as the parties stay flexible and listen to the contrary views, the hope for a conference is kept alive," he told the news conference before leaving for Jordan.

But he added he was "disappointed by the lack of progress" in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Asked about the possibility of an international peace conference, Mr. Carter said: "I hope so."

He said he saw "an expression of flexibility recently that's unprecedented" from the Palestinians, and said any Palestinian delegation to such a conference should "be obviously controlled by the PLO."

Israeli officials refuse any dealings with the PLO, and U.S. law

forbids officials to meet PLO leaders.

But Mr. Carter told reporters at the start of his tour that he was "not bound by the constraints that were on me when I was in office" and said he planned to meet some "key spokesmen for the Palestinian community."

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Monday that he did not expect Mr. Carter to bring messages or suggestions for the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mr. Masri said: "There are no arrangements for him (Mr. Carter) to meet any high PLO official." But he added: "If that happens, we have no objection."

During his visit to Syria, Mr. Carter held three rounds of talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Lebanon and the Middle East.

The former president also told the Damascus news conference that Mr. Assad assured him Syria would spare no effort to help secure freedom for foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

U.S. sees major Soviet strides

(Continued from page 1)

tactical ballistic missile), "the report said.

A Pentagon official, who briefed reporters on the report on condition he be not identified, said: "Rest assured that a year from now it will be deployed."

The missile, with a range of 10,000 kilometres, is much bigger than the Soviet Union's single-warhead Midgetman missile to be trucked about on its own launcher.

The Pentagon said the Soviet Union has built and launched four of its new Delta-4 class strategic missile submarines and that the first had recently put to sea on operational status carrying 16 SSN-23 missiles.

It is very difficult to find and kill those systems," the Pentagon official said.

The United States has no mobile, land-based intercontinental missiles although the Reagan administration has asked Congress for funds to mount the 10-warhead MX missile on rail cars and to develop a single-warhead Midgetman missile to be trucked about on its own launcher.

The Pentagon said the Soviet Union has built and launched four of its new Delta-4 class strategic missile submarines and that the first had recently put to sea on operational status carrying 16 SSN-23 missiles.

Kidnappers step up pressure

(Continued from page 1)

"They used the word humanitarian. I ask them if they believe in that word to release my husband so he can see a specialist," Mr. Steen's wife Virginia told reporters tearfully on Tuesday.

A spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, reiterated Israel's refusal to deal with the kidnappers.

A White House spokesman said Washington would not put pressure on any country to concede the demands.

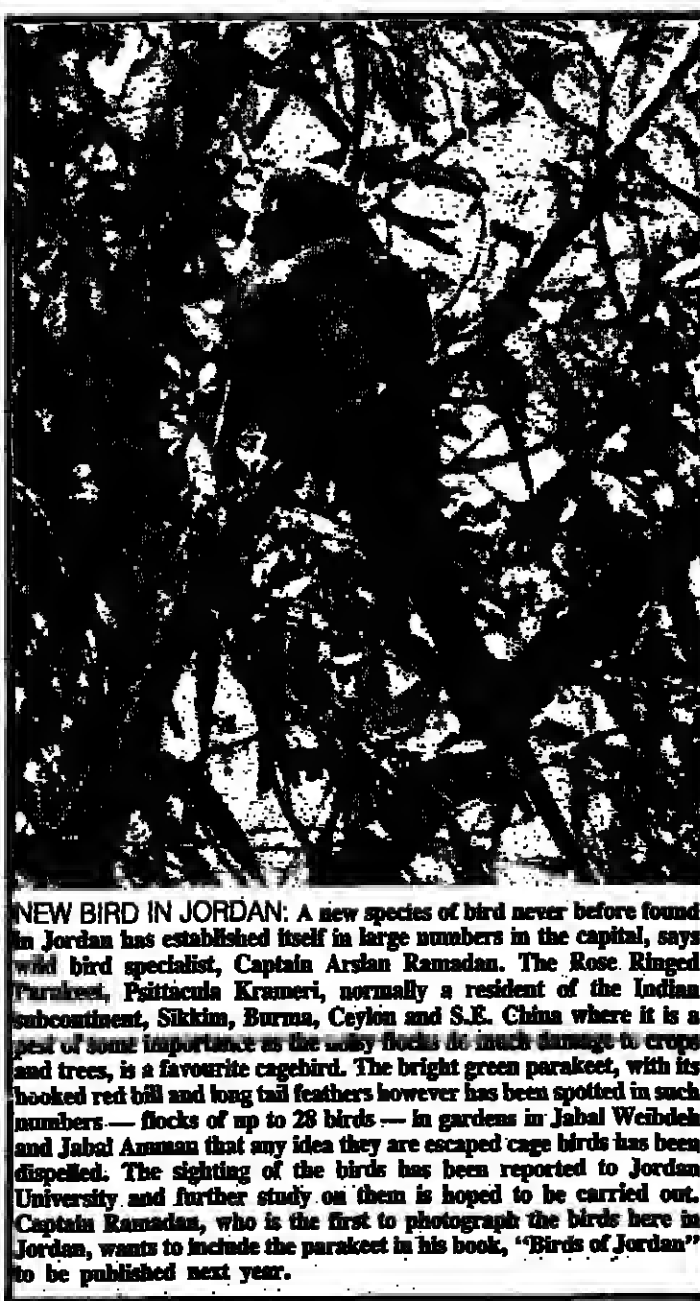
Sheikh Fadlallah put hostage-taking in the context of oppressed people confronting strong powers. "We do not justify this method, but regrettably it is practical method that is active in the political, regional and international arenas," he said.

"We don't think the issue of kidnapping or terrorism in the world can be solved by military means which the big powers are threatening to use."

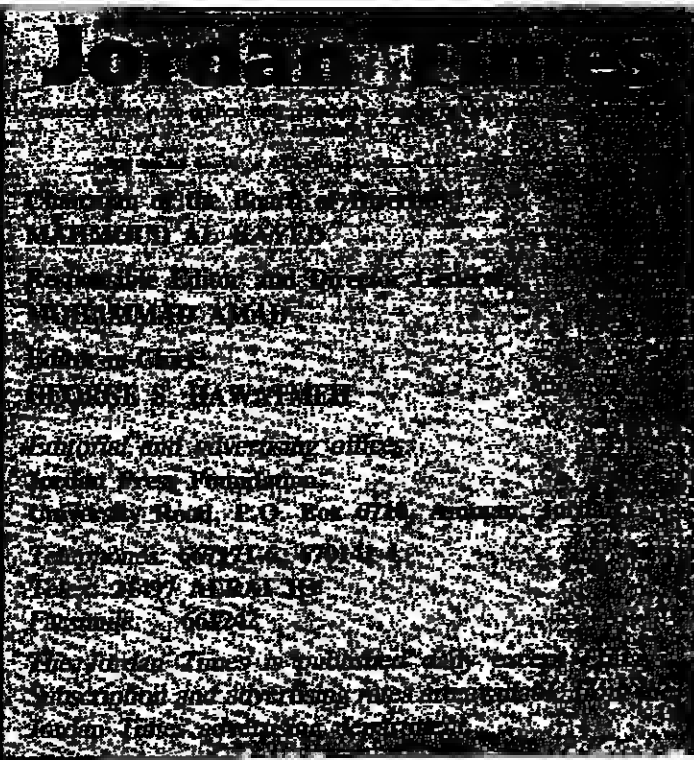
In Damascus, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad had told him Syria would spare no effort to secure freedom for foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

He said the presence of over 7,000 Syrian troops in west Beirut increased chances of locating the hostages.

"My own judgment is that President Assad would be eager to have Syrian troops take whatever step actually is necessary to locate and release, or lead to the release of hostages," Mr. Carter told a news conference at the end of a visit to Syria.



NEW BIRD IN JORDAN: A new species of bird never before found in Jordan has established itself in large numbers in the capital, says wild bird specialist, Captain Arslan Ramadan. The Rose Ringed Parakeet, Psittacula krameri, normally a resident of the Indian subcontinent, Sikkim, Burma, Ceylon and S.E. China where it is a pest of some importance as the noisy flocks do much damage to crops and trees, is a favourite cagebird. The bright green parakeet, with its hooked red bill and long tail feathers however has been spotted in such numbers — flocks of up to 25 birds — in gardens in Jabal Weibdeh and Jabal Amman that say idea they are escaped cage birds has been dispelled. The sighting of the birds has been reported to Jordan University and further study on them is hoped to be carried out. Captain Ramadan, who is the first to photograph the birds here in Jordan, wants to include the parakeet in his book, "Birds of Jordan" to be published next year.



The numbers game

THE 1986-1990 five-year plan for social and economic development in Jordan provides for the distribution of various projects in the Kingdom and promises large investments in these projects. But although the plan aims at achieving a fair distribution of benefits to all sectors and stemming the movement of people from rural to urban areas of the Kingdom, it fails to give particulars about population policies related to the plan and does not contain any ideas about controlling the population growth of this country.

Over the past four decades, the population of Jordan has been increasing at an annual average of four per cent, of which 3.5 per cent was attributed to natural growth, and the remainder to forced or voluntary immigration into the Kingdom from the occupied territories. As far as one can see, there is no indication that these rates will retreat in the foreseeable future. In such a situation, economic planning becomes rather difficult because it is impossible for Jordan to maintain economic growth at stable prices when the rate of population increase is the same or higher than economic growth.

One has to realise that Jordan is no longer in a boom period and that, given the present circumstances, this small country cannot expect to match the economic growth of a major industrialised nation, such as Japan which maintains an annual average economic growth of 3.5 per cent. Official statistics in Jordan recently revealed a retreat in per capita income over the past five years, and this fact ought to be taken into account by planners of economic and social development and those in charge of implementing the current scheme.

We do not want to allow rampant population growth in Jordan, and thereby sacrifice the living standard of the present population for whom we strive to find jobs, provide services and economic development. If the idea behind letting the population explosion continue is to provide additional numbers to confront the common enemy, we ought to remember that it is quality and not quantity that counts, and that technological development, which the present government is trying to achieve in education, industry and other fields, aims exactly at realising that end.

In a recent report, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities listed Jordan among several other developing countries as a nation with "high human suffering" based on the criteria used in the study which took into account water resources, health, education and other basic services. Services in this group of countries, the study said, would be adversely affected and development in general would suffer if the present population growth remained unchecked.

The population growth in Jordan is among the highest in the world; and in view of the Kingdom's limited means, and the current world economic recession we believe it is time for a serious re-examination of the population policy in Jordan if the coming generation is really to benefit and if the current five-year plan is to achieve success.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Masri reasserts Jordan's stand

IN a statement to local and foreign journalists on Monday Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri reiterated Jordan's view with regard to the proposed international conference which he said should be held under United Nations auspices. In form, he said, the conference should first be called for by the U.N. secretary General; and in substance, the conference should tackle the causes and then find a solution for the Palestine problem and implement the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The minister reiterated this view because of current efforts on the part of the United States and Israel to try to empty this conference from its real meaning and objectives. Both sides are trying to present the conference as only a means for delving into direct negotiations not concerned with the implementation of the council resolutions which should bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. For Jordan, the proposed international conference should involve all concerned parties in the peace-making process and the United Nations should provide guarantee for a negotiated settlement. Participation of all concerned parties should take place in essence and in form; and the resolutions should be put into force, if a lasting peace is to be attained. If the United States and Israel continue to adhere to their intransigent stands and if they continue to refuse to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people the idea of such a conference will be nipped in the bud.

Al Dustour: Jordan continues rallying Arabs

FOREIGN Minister Taher Al Masri on Monday stressed a "well known" fact that Jordan maintains good relations with all Arab countries and for this reason it continues serious endeavour for ending inter-Arab differences and strengthening Arab solidarity. The minister also pointed to another fact that Jordan has been continuously and relentlessly working for a joint Arab stand vis-a-vis the Middle East question, and the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. For this reason, Jordan, he said, has been endeavouring to convene the proposed international conference to find a just and lasting solution for the problem. Jordan also has been interacting with various developments in the Middle East region, and has been enlisting support for Arab causes from European, Asian and African countries. Jordan's endeavours have been specially backed by the European Community nations which are expected to help in the current efforts for convening the long-awaited conference. But it should be pointed out that the U.S. stand and Washington's support for Israel's intransigence continues to place a real obstacle in the path of this conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iraq renews call for peace

NOW that Iran has failed to achieve any success in the war with Iraq and its "year of decisiveness" yielded nothing, Iraq has once again repeated a call for peace. President Saddam Hussein in a speech marking the end of the Persian calendar year repeated his five point plan for achieving peace with the Iranians. These are namely, a complete and unconditional withdrawal of all forces to international boundaries, an exchange of prisoners of war, non-interference in the affairs of each other, negotiations for peace and guarantees for the region's security and stability. The Iraqis have no alternative but to accept the peace plan because, after six and a half years in the battlefield, they failed to achieve anything at all except defeat, sufferings for the Iranian people and a devastation of the country and its economy. The Iraqis have tried all forms of weapons on Iraq and they dealt with arms dealers from the East and West including Israel and the United States, but all the arms they received failed to make Iraq budge from its position or change its stand. All the sophisticated weapons pouring into Iran over the past six and a half years have failed to make any change in the balance of military power in Iran's favour. All that these weapons succeeded in doing was leading hundreds of thousands of Iranian youth to their death, deceived by the empty slogans and the dreams of the Ayatollah rulers in Tehran.

British students of the 80s: 'Study in, politics out'

By Janice Turner

WHEN Her Majesty Queen Noor began her speech to students at the Oxford Union on March 10, she was no doubt unaware that the year Union President Simon Stevens was born was the same year that Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In fact, the majority of today's students were not even born when that catastrophe happened. So the history lesson contained within her speech may have opened many eyes for the first time to the scale of the British betrayal of the Arab Nation during this century, and its responsibility for the current state of affairs in the Middle East.

British students — like the Americans Queen Noor spoke of — have always been idealists. In the sixties, buoyed by their government grants and tasting for the first time the freedoms of adulthood, their thoughts and discussions would inevitably turn to those with less freedom, at home and abroad. Especially after the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, their attention turned more towards the plight of the Palestinians.

Student and youth action should not be judged in terms of the action itself, but in terms of its

political knock-on effect: Many students end up in important political positions themselves, and concerted pressure on political parties has often led to the party changing its policy.

Youth politics in Britain is organised along party lines; all the four main parties have their own youth wing and a separate student wing. The effect each group has on its party has a lot to do with the party's organisational structure.

The Young Liberals, for example, have the power to propose resolutions to the policy making bodies of the Liberal Party and are represented on its most important committees, though they operate independently on political issues and campaigns. In 1969 a small delegation of Young Liberals visited Jordan where they met leading Palestinians and returned to incur the wrath of the rest of the Young Liberal national executive. But only one year later, the Young Liberals became the first British youth group to forge links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians. The Young Liberals continued to campaign throughout the seventies, organising pickets in front of the Israeli

embassy, distributing mass leaflets, demonstrating against the Israeli occupation of various parts of Arab territories and addressing mass rallies of students and young activists in London's Trafalgar Square. But their crowning glory came in July 1982, when a small group of Young Liberals proposed a resolution, with Lord Christopher Mayhew, to the Liberal Party's national council on the Palestinian issue and succeeded in making the Liberal Party the first British party to formally recognise the PLO. (This had been helped along, of course, by party leader David Steel's meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in 1980 which had led to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin refusing to meet Mr. Steel. Today many of the Young Liberals are in senior party positions, and one or two are in parliament.)

The Young Socialists and the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) — the youth sections of the Labour Party — have never had such an impact on the party, but have been much more effective in the student movement. Their need for a "class analysis" of everything from mending cracked paving

stones to the defeat of international capitalism meant they were a little slow on the uptake, but in the eighties the student wing adopted the Palestinian issue. NOLS is very active in the National Union of Students, holding 10 seats on the executive. Many university unions were (and still are) dominated by Labour students, and were also treated to speakers from the Middle East to hear a different story from that being told in the newspapers. Many of yesterday's Labour student activists are today in parliament and are in top positions in other trade unions. However the Young Socialists have continued to hold the Palestinians at arm's length. Though the fight on the British left for recognition of the PLO may seem a mere philosophical side issue in comparison to the suffering of Palestinians throughout this time, and the efforts of the Jordanian government to support all those who had fled over the King Hussein bridge, the success of this created new terms for

the debate on the future of the Middle East. It recognised the very position taken by Queen Noor at the Oxford Union — that to solve the conflict in the Middle

East, the Palestinians themselves have to be directly involved.

On the right of the political spectrum are the Conservative Party's youth wings. Though the Conservatives have remained in power for two terms, during and before this time the young Conservatives have never played much of a role in youth politics. Unlike the other groups, the two wings are as similar as chalk and cheese. While the Young Conservatives retain the old Tory tradition of care and concern for those less fortunate than themselves, the Federation of Conservative Students (FCS) drifted so far to the right that the embarrassed party leaders disbanded it and replaced it with the Conservative Collegiate Forum. The left of the Conservative Party has long held a high regard for the Arab World, which is shared by the Young Conservatives, — a delegation of whom visited Jordan and the West Bank in 1983 — but tight control of party agendas has prevented public discussion of the issue to a large degree. And the FCS's few ventures into international politics have (perhaps fortunately) included the Middle East, on which they are pro-Israel. The two most

notorious ventures were visiting the Nicaraguan contras, and expressing sympathy for the South African government.

The main political issues on the student agenda today are a far cry from the international campaigns of yesterday. Now that the recession and government cutbacks have bitten large holes in what is left of their bank accounts, students are focusing more and more on financial issues such as their grants, rents, and cuts in the education budget for the universities. With no guarantee of a job after graduation, students find it necessary to try for a better grade than perhaps might have sufficed fifteen years ago, so study is in, and politics are out.

But given that it is there same students who tomorrow may be holding the reins of power — especially graduates of Oxford, one of the citadels of the overprivileged student — it is essential that they are told about the harsh realities of the Middle East as it was, and as it is. For if these students of the establishment become the establishment, maybe they will be better placed to live to the responsibilities they have inherited.

Public standing of Israel's top leaders takes a nosedive

By Thomas L. Friedman

TEL AVIV — Israel's largest newspaper, Yediot Ahronot, recently published a photo spread of the country's top three leaders that summed up the prevailing mood toward politicians here.

One picture showed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir covering his ears. The second picture showed Foreign Minister Shimon Peres covering his mouth, and the third showed Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin hiding his eyes.

The caption read, "Everyone covering up for everyone," and no one needed any further explanation.

More than at any other time since Israel's coalition government was formed in September 1984, the Israeli public and political commentators have been expressing disappointment with their leaders. The main factor is the government's handling of a series of intelligence-related scandals.

The criticism goes beyond the normal level of complaining by the Israeli press and now includes more than a few voices wondering aloud whether Mr. Shamir, 71, Mr. Peres, 63, and Mr. Rabin, 65, have not been too long on the field of politics and might not benefit the country by stepping aside.

"It is doubtful that the public standing of the leadership has ever been as low as it is today," the commentator Abraham Shevitz wrote in the newspaper

Ha'aretz. In a poll in January by Hanoth Smith, the percentage of Israelis expressing support for the coalition government had fallen to 43 per cent, from 61 per cent three months earlier.

What has been so disturbing to political commentators and the public is that Mr. Shamir, of the Likud Bloc, and Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin of the Labour Party have been involved in three scandals in the last two years.

In each case, Israeli commentators assert, the three leaders denied any knowledge of wrongdoing under their ministerial responsibility; handled the affairs in a way that was embarrassing for Israel and legally questionable, and blocked any serious challenge of their behaviour by choosing not to criticise one another.

Ordinarily they would have been immediately called to account by the opposition. But Likud and Labour are united in a "national unity" coalition that has such an overwhelming majority in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, that they do not have to worry about a vote of no confidence as long as they stick together.

Mr. Shamir, Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin, the Yediot commentator Yehayim Ben Porath noted, are "trapped and tied up and involved amongst themselves in a complex knot of spider webs."

Mr. Ben Porath asserted that in the Shin Bet scandal, in which



Israel's domestic intelligence service was found to have slain two Palestinian bus hijackers in custody in April 1984, Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin sided with Mr. Shamir, who was prime minister when the killings occurred, in protecting the head of Shin Bet from any punishment.

They then united to dismiss the attorney general who wanted to investigate the case, the commentator added, and they arranged pardons for the security officials involved.

In the Iran arms affair, Mr. Ben Porath said, Mr. Shamir rebuffed the favour by standing up for the decisions made by Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin to involve Israel in an arms-for-hostages arrangement with Iran.

In the Washington espionage case involving Jonathan Jay Pol-

lard, Mr. Ben Porath went on, "the mutual dependence and cover-up, and refusal to investigate or be investigated, reached supreme perfection."

All three leaders, he added, backed each other in asserting that they knew nothing of the Israeli spying operation, in supporting the promotion of the Israeli officials involved in the espionage and in arranging for a belated and watered-down investigation by a two-member committee.

In an open letter to the American people in Ha'aretz, the commentator B. Michael wrote: "My dear America, make a clear distinction between the citizens of Israel and the government of Israel. We are not they and they are not we."

Referring not only to the in-

telligence cases but to the 1982 massacres at the Lebanese refugee districts of Sabra and Shatila as well, he went on to say of Israel's leaders:

"This is the fourth or fifth time they are trying to sell me the miserable jingle: 'We did not know, did not hear, did not see, did not report and we are not responsible.' Pollard, Iran, Shin Bet, Sabra and Shatila — we're just ministers. No one tells us anything.' And they continue to sit on their chairs. If my IQ were not greater than the speed limit inside the city, I might buy this once, twice, even three times — but not five."

"I hope, America," he continued, "you are beginning to understand that I am also insulted just like you. According to accepted democratic reasoning, it would be time for these men to pack their bags and go home. But the reality here is that prime ministers and people with top postings are changed only when one can find an alternative that is worse."

In an article titled "Three Wise Monkeys," Yosef Goeli, an editorial writer for The Jerusalem Post, stated: "The real cause for concern is that the conscious determination not to know too much, the failure to exercise effective control over the bodies officially responsible to them and the propensity for bad judgment evinced by our top leaders in the Pollard affair was not a one-time affair but the catastrophic continuation of a long-term pattern."

What makes the current situation even more unusual is that the banding together of Mr. Peres, Mr. Shamir and Mr. Rabin comes at a time of heightened political tensions among them. Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres are barely on speaking terms over political differences, and relations between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres are not much better.

But for now, Mr. Peres, Mr. Shamir and Mr. Rabin are sticking together in opposing any new elections, at least until the latest affairs blow over — New York Times.

OPEC discipline may pretend a reassertion of power

By Nicholas Moore

LONDON — OPEC is quietly easing itself back into the driver's seat.

Market experts say that, if the organisation can continue to exert the rare self-discipline which it has shown in recent weeks on oil pricing and production, the 1990s might see it back again as unchallenged arbiter of world energy prices.

Since early February, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has succeeded in restraining production by most of its 13 members so as to tighten a surplus-laden market.

As a result, it has been able to buoy prices at around \$18 a barrel — about 20 per cent up on late last year.

Previous OPEC attempts to mandate output cuts and fix prices since the start of a glut early in this decade have often failed, as cash-placed sellers broke quotas and made discounts. Prices fell as low as \$9 last summer.

The glut that has humbled OPEC is blamed by many independent analysts and some OPEC leaders largely on the "oil shocks" administered in the 1970s.

Raising prices above \$30, OPEC forced the West to conserve oil. Cars, homes and industrial boilers were made more energy-efficient. The U.S. economy, for instance, has expanded since the 1973 Arab oil embargo, but uses less energy.

The West also stampeded to use more coal and nuclear power, and to exploit petroleum deposits



like those under the North Sea that are outside OPEC control. So OPEC output is now down below 16 million barrels of oil a day, about half what it was at the end of the seventies.

But the new tactic of moderate prices may reverse the trend. Lower oil prices encourage consumption, remove an incentive to spend money on conserving energy and make it uneconomic to tap non-OPEC petroleum deposits where extraction costs are high.

The U.S. Department of Energy told President Reagan in a report mid-March that the changed outlook for oil posed "certain economic and security risks" from the U.S. viewpoint.

It looked at two scenarios. One saw steady price rises to \$28 by 1995. The other envisaged \$15 oil until 1990, then a rise to \$23 by the mid-nineties.

Both showed a decline in U.S. and North Sea output, while world demand grew moderately. The result? The world would depend on OPEC for 45 to 60 per cent of its oil by 1995, more than half of it from the Middle East

Gulf. The report urged action to make nuclear power and the burning of coal safer and more acceptable to ecologists. But oil would remain the most important fuel of the next decade and "collusion" in OPEC might drive its price artificially high.

The report also expressed concern that "wars, revolutions or other events in the Middle East could disrupt oil supplies."

Such independent market experts as Michael Unsworth at London brokers Smith New Court agree that OPEC may be able to reassert a dominant role.

"I think it will, if it can keep the price on the low side for the next few years," Unsworth said. "At \$30 it could not get back. But at \$18 we will see declining non-OPEC production, especially in the United States, and demand rising by about one to 1.5 per cent a year."

Unsworth thought that "OPEC had 'learned its lesson.' If it did regain its old supremacy, it would try to avoid any new shocks because 'if they let prices run ahead

too far, they destroy the demand outlook."

Projections by the West's International Energy Agency (IEA) suggest that OPEC may indeed need to take care. The IEA said on March 10 that, just using existing technology, industrial nations could, if pushed, make their economies 30 per cent more energy-efficient by the end of the century than now.

But market experts share U.S. jitters about the volatility of the Middle East.

There never was any real shortage in the second OPEC oil shock in 1979. Prices were bid up in a mad scramble by refiners to build up petroleum stocks, simply out of their fear that Iran's revolution might disrupt supplies.

OPEC cashed in, ignoring the then Saudi oil minister, Ahmed Zaki Yamani, who said soaring prices would cause a glut.

Some market experts say that Iran is historically a price "hawk" and that, if the Gulf war led to Iranian ascendancy in the Middle East, its ideas might prevail in OPEC councils.

LETTERS

Impressive coverage

To the Editor:

AS one of the European journalists covering the Paris-Peking-Peking air race, I can only say how much I was impressed by the news media in Jordan which gave extensive coverage to the event. The past few days offered me and my colleagues, the chance to know something about this country, and I dare say that we were all impressed by the news media especially the Jordan Times and Jordan Television, both of which did a great job in this respect. The skilful presentation of the event, and other world news on Jordan Television attracted our attention, as this clearly reflects the immense effort behind such excellent work.

May I congratulate Jordan Television and the Jordan Times on their real and unflinching performance.

Eric Ottelson
Amman

Very reasonable

To the Editor:

MUCH has been said and written about the increase of the tax for foreign house-maids. I have a suggestion. It would be only fair if we could apply the policy adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which allows the hiring of maids only in special cases, like in families of working mothers, sick housewives, expecting mothers with twins and so on. The permission is granted by a special committee. Families falling in these groups pay the regular tax.

Other families, not included in the above groups, but still wishing to have home helpers, should pay the new tax.

Dr. Nevena Nashaiwat
Amman

Josephine

They don't predict weather, but come close on your life

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

AMMAN — Her services are sometimes more expensive than those of a psychiatrist, yet she has no scarcity of customers.

The tools of her trade consist of coffee cups, cards, small shells and, above all, a quick analytical mind. She is the fortune-teller, known here as the bassara.

Her "profession" may not rely on any academic base, but, it appears to be on the boom. The more complicated society becomes, the better business it makes for the bassara — sought by many for some kind of comfort, or, at least, some fun in the complex and "serious" day-to-day living.

A young couple park their car outside a small house in one of Amman's poor neighbourhoods. They step out of the car looking a bit awkward and head towards the little house. The bassara greets them casually but warmly and they sit on the couch located behind a small table. The house consists of one room that practically serves as a living room, bedroom, kitchen and washroom all at the same time. The bassara, a pleasantly ominous figure doesn't bother to ask any questions. She immediately puts the coffee kettle on the fire, and the young couple look at each other, excited in anticipation. After they drink the coffee and the over-turned cups have slightly dried,

the drama begins, and throughout the "reading," the amused couple occasionally look at each other in surprise, embarrassment or disbelief.

Sorcery, fortune-telling and black magic are banned in Jordan and police conducted several campaigns last year in a serious effort to clamp down on the trade and eliminate its practitioners. But it is becoming more and more evident that this trade is here to stay.

The bassara is portrayed by authorities through television and radio as a crook but many see her as somebody who, though controversial, arguably fulfills a certain social function. And indeed, she has become the subject of discussion in many a Jordanian household.

From Amman to Cairo to Washington D.C. — wherever one goes, fortune-tellers are found in different settings and various guises. They are a breed of street-wise men or women hardened by the trade.

"Everytime I go to the bassara with a bad mood, I leave amused or laughing," Rana, a frequent visitor of bassaras says. "It is astonishing how accurate and shocking the bassara's predictions can be."

But, sometimes "it is not a laughing matter," Rana reflects.

"The details can be scary," she says. "She could tell you things about your past and incidents or people you have forgotten about yourself."

Stories told by former skeptics suggest there is something more to it than just coincidence or deduction reasoning. "You have to see one of these women yourself," the "non-believers" are often told.

Experts say that people keep going to the bassara because it gives them happiness when they are told good things about themselves — a trick successfully used by the fortune-teller, who would seldom forecast bad news.

The bulk of the bassara's predictions circle around love, marriage and money — the three most prominent concerns of people. However, predictions are not the only thing a bassara can do. Many claim to be able to return a loved one by writing a *hijab* (incantation). The *hijab* can be used to make somebody hate somebody else, or for separation or a reunion. Stories told about *hijabs* are startling and sometimes totally unbelievable.

People mostly agree that some fortune-tellers are better than others and that "although we don't believe in it, we often get a kick out of it." Furthermore, curiosity makes many people go, just because "there is no harm in it."

Some popular practitioners of

the trade charge as much as JD 50 for reading somebody's coffee cup. Others may offer their services for "as much as you want to pay." But the tariff seems to be JD 1 per reading.

Hard times and a feeling of uncertainty are also cited as behind driving people, including intellectuals, to seek some assurances about their future from dealing with the occult.

When everything looks to have hit a dead end and the situation appears to be desperate, people think that why not try the bassara as a last resort. "After all, you've got nothing to lose."

The zeal with which some people tell stories about their encounters with fortune-tellers, astrologers or others in the business, occasionally bordering on obsession, drives many people to go and "try their luck."

The few who occasionally get good or accurate readings make the best publicists for the bassara. All you need is just a few good predictions here and there, and you've got it made as a bassara who will be the talk of the town for quite a while.

It is surprising that people whom one would never think to be interested in the subject turn out to be regular visitors of the fortune teller. These, however, don't like to talk about it.

At a certain point in their lives, almost everybody had, at least once, visited a bassara or had



Drawing by Rawda Abu Taha

their fortune told. Astrology and palm reading fall in the same category as the "science of the future." Astrologers continue to publish best sellers, and fortune-tellers continue to increase in numbers all over the world, even in highly developed countries like the United States and Britain. The good ones are known to have fat bank accounts.

It is said by social scientists that it is hard to find somebody with no superstitious beliefs, and this is very nearly correct. Many heads of state, presidents and other leaders are known to have some kind of faith in the occult. Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the trade is that most of its practitioners are women rather than men.

Lebanon ills spark 'gold rush' for ancient treasures

By Diana Abdallah

Reuter

TYRE, Lebanon — Pickaxes uproot slabs of mud and stone as scores of exhausted men dig feverishly for treasure near this ancient south Lebanese port city.

This is not orderly excavation of Lebanon's rich and varied past but a desperate bid for cash to assuage hunger in a country wracked by 12 years of civil war.

Centuries-old objects which can fetch high prices at West European and American saleroom auctions are being sold to local dealers for a few dollars.

"We don't know the true value of what we are digging for," said 27-year-old Mueen Taleb, gesturing towards his find of oil lamps, jars and statues inside a tomb with human bones. "We had to do it to fill the empty stomachs of our children."

The site is among more than 11 similar areas dotted with tombs and caches of archaeological treasures found accidentally over the last two weeks. The result has been Lebanon's own "gold rush," with hundreds of unemployed men trying their luck.

"What the villagers are finding is of great cultural value," said antiquities official Wafiq Allam. "But we are living in a chaotic state and in the current circumstances the government does not control all of Lebanon."

One man digging a trench offered two statues for 1,000 Lebanese pounds (\$8) while others said they would sell an ancient amphora for 500 pounds (\$4).

Lebanon's once-sturdy pound has lost more than 80 per cent in international value since January 1986, fuelling inflation and sending consumer prices soaring.

A Beirut dealer said some rare objects found their way to auction rooms in Europe, the United States and Israel.

The men hacking away at the rain-soaked hilltop said prices varied according to what the dealers were prepared to pay.

Archaeology professor Leila Badr, curator of the museum at the American University of Beirut, told Reuters most of the newly-found artefacts she had seen dated back to the Byzantine and Greco-Roman periods.

"Roughly, it would be a period of some 700 years from the first century before Christ," Badr said, adding she had seen phoenician pots and a rare jar some 4,000 years old.

"We are losing objects which are irreplaceable. This war is eating away at our past and our heritage. What is happening now is going to be recorded in history itself," she said.

A few kilometres from the scene of the hastily-dug pits and broken tomb walls, a harbor displayed in its window an array of coins, statues and potsherds — below a shelf crammed with shampoo bottles, deodorant sprays and cosmetics.

Jamal Basma, 27, related to an owner of land where the tombs were found, said selling Lebanon's past had become a popular way of making money. "Everybody has become a dealer. They are taking advantage of our poor people," he said.

"The dealers have a pretty good idea of the market value of these things overseas. They are getting rich from the sweat of the impoverished, who are trying to make enough to feed and clothe their families," Basma added.

"We know the dealers are cheating us because we don't know the value of what we dig up," said Abu Kamal Tawileh, 55, a father of four.

"Before I started work here I hardly had enough money to buy a kilo (2.2 lbs) of potatoes for my family," he said.

Archaeologists say historical sites like the one near Tyre scattered throughout Lebanon, but in many instances warfare had prevented inspections. Major sites include prehistoric remains, some of them dating back 5,500 years.

Egypt seeks to restore its hotel glory

The Cataract, the Winter Palace, the Kalabsha, the Cecil ... all once-glorious hotels in Egypt, now fallen on hard times. Tony Walker reports on a successful drive to encourage foreign investment.

CAIRO — When Agatha Christie's mystery *Death on the Nile* was made into a film, the Cataract hotel at Aswan in Upper Egypt made a grand location for several of the more memorable scenes.

The hotel's facade was suitably evocative of an imperial past. Indeed, what better place to display some of the film's principal characters than the Cataract's elegant terrace overlooking the Nile?

Unfortunately the impression of elegance was superficial. The Cataract itself, like many of Egypt's grand old hotels such as the Winter Palace at Luxor, had fallen on hard times.

The plumbing would not have been out of place in a Victorian doss house, the food was execrable and service fell short of acceptable standards. The nationalised hotels lost money.

Now, the Egyptian Hotels Company, which controls 18 of the country's better-known hotels, is busy divesting itself of the management of these facilities in the hope they can be returned to profitability for the first time in years.

Mr. Baheddin Nasr, chairman of EHC, said it planned to turn a 1986 loss of £46.3 million (\$4.6 million) into a profit by 1988 through a series of leasing arrangements with major international hotel chains and leisure groups.

Etap of France has taken over management of the Cataract and Kalabsha at Aswan and is negotiating an agreement to lease the Cecil on the waterfront at Alexandria which served on occasions as Montgomery of Alamein's wartime headquarters.

The Scandinavian management Company has contracted to run

the Palestine hotel at Alexandria and the famous Shepherd's on the Nile at Cairo. The Hyatt group is negotiating to take over management of the Winter Palace.

Club Med is also making a push in Egypt. It is refurbishing the Amoun hotel in Aswan to add to its existing facilities, which include the Marnet Palace at Cairo and holiday villages at Luxor and Hurgada on the Red Sea.

The French leisure group also has several ferries on the Nile and advanced plans for an additional tourist village at Mallawi near Minya in Upper Egypt, about 300 km south of Cairo. Club Med's investment in Egypt totals about \$10 million.

Mr. Alain Fouquet, manager of Club Med in Egypt, says the group has confidence in the place. "How can Egypt not be an attraction?" he asks. Latest tourism figures bear out Mr. Fouquet's confidence.

After a bleak 1986, when police riots in Egypt and other

Middle East-related violence elsewhere turned thousands of tourists away, numbers have picked up strongly.

Mr. Nasr said the aim of the EHC's privatisation drive was twofold: to liberalise the management of Egypt's historic hotels and, through foreign investment, to refurbish and renovate these establishments.

Etap, for example, has undertaken to spend about \$4 million on the Cataract over three years in an attempt to restore it to its former glory. The Scandinavian Management Company is allocating about \$12 million towards renovating Shepherd's and the Palestine and Club Med is spending about \$3 million on the Amoun at Aswan.

Other international companies involved in negotiations with EHC are Setec Tourism International of France, which is interested in the El Nil hotel in Cairo and the Savoy at Luxor, and Tudor, a Jersey-based British

company which is considering taking a long lease on the El Borg and Scheherazade hotels in Cairo.

Mr. Nasr says EHC wants to secure foreign management con-

tracts for all 18 hotels under his organisation's control. "Our aim," he said, "is the privatisation of management of all public-sector hotels" — Financial Times feature.

| Management company | Hotel | Contract |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Scandinavian Management Co. | Shepherd's, Cairo | \$12 million for both |
| Etap | Palestine, Alexandria | |
| Club Med | Amoun, Aswan | \$3 million for 20 years lease |
| Setec Tourism International | El Nil, Cairo | protocol signed in October |
| Tudor | Savoy, Luxor | |
| Hyatt International | Scheherazade, Cairo | negotiating |
| | El Borg, Cairo | |
| | Luxor, Luxor | |
| | Winter Palace, Luxor | negotiating |

West Europe struggles to fit 'no future' youth to jobs

By Peter Millership

Reuter

LONDON — West European governments, deeply worried by chronic unemployment among young people, offer a bevy of job creation and training schemes.

But some economists say that, failing an unlikely burst of economic expansion, only time will remove this tragic legacy of the post-war baby boom.

"The problem is enormous," said Alex Bunz, director of youth unemployment policy in the European Community, where six million young people are on the dole.

"We've seen youth unemployment go down as a result of economic growth, demographic changes and training programmes, but youth still make up 37 per cent of all jobless," Bunz said.

He was one of several officials and economists polled by Reuters in an attempt to assess the scale of the problem of joblessness among West Europeans aged 15 to 24.

The problem seems graver in Europe than in other industrial nations like the United States and Japan — although Japan, where the baby boom came later, may be destined for trouble.

Some sociologists and politicians blame rising drug addiction and violent crime on alienation and a "no future" mentality among jobless young people, even citing the trail of bloodshed and havoc left by British soccer fans across Europe.

But Britain's secretary of state for employment, Lord Young, told Reuters: "I don't believe there is any link between crime and unemployment. If there was, the late 1920s and early 30s when there was far higher unemployment than today would have been a very lawless era. It was a very lawful one."

Economists say that unemployment may generally decline when the impact of the baby boom tapers off. But they differ on why young people bear so much of the burden of unemployment in the sluggish economies of today, laden with surplus workers and bristling with new technologies

that displace with people. Poor education and lack of training, high starting wage rates and restrictive labour laws are regularly blamed.

David Marsden of the London School of Economics said firms tend to cut new recruitment rather than fire existing workers when pinched by recession.

"I haven't given up the hope that in the longer term renewed economic growth would be a way to cut unemployment," he said. Some optimism could also be found in a recent economic outlook by the organisation for economic cooperation and development.

It said the proportion of youths in unemployment totals had been falling virtually everywhere, partly as fewer people were entering the workforce. Youth job creation and training schemes had also helped, notably in France and Britain, it said.

The OECD provided figures from leading industrial nations showing the number of unemployed as a percentage of the total youth workforce.

(See table)

Britain's Lord Young said his efforts to reduce youth unemployment centred on employer-led, state-subsidised youth training schemes (YTS) and the strategy meant no young person under 18 would be unemployed from mid-April, except by choice. Opposition critics of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government reply the schemes are inadequate, and blame her policies, particularly curbs on state spending, for high British unemployment.

Lord Young was critical of what he said was an over-academic education system of the 1960s which neglected technical work.

He also said that "all over Europe" trade unions bid up youth wages, as a ploy to get better adult wages. In Britain they went as high as 65 per cent of the adult pay packet, and that deterred employers from hiring youngsters.

Almost alone, "West Germany had the sense to keep youth starting wages at 20 per cent," Lord Young said.

He said the British attitude to technical education was "100 years behind the Germans. The French have a centrally-directed educational system and have also managed to keep a high element of vocational training in it. We didn't."

West Germany's lower youth unemployment figures reflect an industrial apprenticeship system, covering jobs in everything from engineering and chemicals to hairdressing. An apprentice serves his time at a fairly low wage, with union blessing.

Almost half the European Community's six million unemployed young people are in Spain, which joined last year, and

in Italy. Italian government figures show that of 2.77 million seeking work in October, 1986, almost 73 per cent were aged 14 to 29.

Professor Adalberto Predetti, head of political economics at Milan's Bocconi University, blamed youth unemployment on poor job creation, rigid labour laws and an influx of foreigners.

"Government job creation and training programme don't seem to be having a large effect," he said. "I am not optimistic at all about the situation improving soon."

In Spain, labour ministry director-general for employment Jose Ignacio Perez Infante said: "The

problem is very serious since we have the highest unemployment rate in Western Europe."

"Unemployment became a serious problem after 1974. We were at a disadvantage ... because the oil shock coincided with the political trauma of the death of General Franco in 1975."

"We also had a delayed baby

boom, which didn't start until the mid-1950s and released thousands of new job seekers in the market when the first oil shock hit."

The Netherlands, among smaller EC nations, had 240,700 under-24s unemployed this January. The social affairs ministry said they represented 33.7 per cent of all jobless there.

| | 1986 | 1987 forecast |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| United States | 12.50 pct | 12.00 pct |
| Japan | 5.50 | 6.00 |
| West Germany | 8.25 | 7.00 |
| France | 25.75 | 26.50 |
| Britain | 21.75 | 20.75 |
| Italy | 35.50 | 37.00 |



With very few exceptions (such as turbulent Uganda), the world's non-industrial nations have made marked progress in providing a basic education for their children. The percentage of children aged 5 to 14 in primary school in the poorest nations increased from 62 in 1965 to 85 in 1982; the increase for lower middle income countries was 74 to 103 and for upper middle income countries 96 to 102.

| Country | 1965 | 1982 |
|----------------------|------|-------|
| United Arab Emirates | n.a. | 132** |
| Iraq | 74 | 109 |
| Singapore | 105 | 108 |
| Hong Kong | 103 | 105 |
| Kenya | 84 | 104 |
| Jordan | 95 | 103 |
| Nigeria | 32 | 98 |
| Malaysia | 90 | 92 |
| Kuwait | 116 | 91 |
| India | 74 | 79 |
| Oman | n.a. | 74 |
| Saudi Arabia | 24 | 67 |
| Uganda | 67 | 60 |
| Pakistan | 40 | 44 |

* Selected from 126 nations listed in the World Development Report 1985. ** Gross enrolment may exceed 100 percent when some pupils are below or above a country's standard primary school age.

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Rinaldi overcomes Rehe in marathon tennis match

FAIRFAX, Virginia (R) — Fifth-seeded Kathy Rinaldi was extended to a third set tiebreaker by Stephanie Rehe before winning the two-hour 41 minute marathon 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 to advance to the second round of the \$150,000 Washington Women's Tennis Tournament.

"After splitting the first two sets, Rinaldi, a six-year tour veteran who turned 20 Tuesday, finally outlasted fellow American Rehe, 17, when she won the tiebreaker 8-6.

Rinaldi won the two longest and most dramatic points of the match, the first a 55-shot rally at 5-5 of the tiebreaker. Rinaldi closed out the match when, at 7-6, she ended a 39-shot rally with a forehand volley.

"I'm glad the match didn't last until my birthday," Rinaldi joked. "I felt like when I played aggressively I was in control of the match."

Kim Shaefer, 29, announced her retirement from tennis after a

6-2, 7-5 first round loss to Sylvia Hanika of West Germany. Shaefer, who took time off to have a baby last summer, was ranked as high as 25 in the world in 1984.

"Retiring is kind of sad. With a family, a baby, and coaching junior players, I just played here for the fun of it," Shaefer said after the match.

Carling Bassett won her opening round match. The 19-year-old Canadian posted a straight-set victory over American Ely Hakami 7-5, 6-1 to advance.

The draw for this tournament was diluted when five players withdrew. Bulgarian sisters Manuela Maleeva, who was to have been seeded sixth, and Katerina pulled out because of food poisoning. West German Bettina Bunge, who was to be the seventh seed, is nursing a sore thigh and Americans Robin White and Alycia Molton also withdrew with injuries.

They were replaced by losers from the qualifying tournament.

Dutch need win against Greeks in Euro match

ROTTERDAM (R) — All attention will be focused on Rudi Gullit and Marco Van Basten today when the Netherlands seeks to beat Greece and go top of qualifying Group Five in the European Soccer Championship.

Gullit last weekend became the world's costliest player in dollars when AC Milan secured his transfer from PSV Eindhoven for \$8.5 million and with Van Basten expected to join him at the Italian club next season, a preview of their combined skills is in prospect.

Gullit, the Netherlands' Player of the Year, is widely regarded as the most exciting Dutch player. Since Johan Cruyff and is likely to be the chief provider for Van Basten, who has made an impressive return to form after undergoing an ankle operation last December.

Van Basten, who has 21 league goals this season despite his injury, will lead the attack alongside PSV's Rene Van Der Gijp and

Canadian-born John Van't Schip of Ajax as the Dutch bid to overhaul the Greeks at the top of the group.

Greece, who leads the Group Five table by a point after playing one game more than the Dutch, is likely to approach the game cautiously, pack its midfield and leave only two men in attack where veteran Olympiakos star Nikos Anastopoulos will be the chief threat to the Dutch defence.

With three victories behind it in four games, Greece has built up its confidence and scored 10 goals, including a 4-2 victory over Cyprus in its last outing in January.

But Dutch coach Rinus Michels has developed a settled team system, which allows Gullit to rove freely from central midfield in support of Van Basten with veteran midfielder Arnold Muhren providing balance and guile, and it should be capable of inflicting the Greeks' second defeat.

Pakistan clinches cricket series against India

NAGPUR, India (AP) — Pakistan's cricket team continued its winning spree by recording an emphatic 42-run victory over India Tuesday in the fifth one-day international.

Pakistan thus wrapped up the six-match, one-day series 4-1 after winning its first-ever test series on Indian soil last week.

The two teams now travel to Jamsheer in Bihar State for the inconsequential final international to be played there Thursday.

In Tuesday's encounter, Pakistan hit 286 for six from 44 overs and then restricted India to 244 for nine on a perfect batting wicket.

India never looked like getting 6.5 runs per over to win the match, despite a steady 70 from master batsman Sunil Gavaskar and a strokeful 52 off 39 balls from vice captain Ravi Shastri.

Dilip Vengsarkar (34) was the only other major contributor as

Pakistan kept the Indian run-rate in check with steady bowling backed by efficient fielding.

Left-arm seamer Wasim Akram followed his superb 48 from 21 deliveries by claiming three wickets for 26 runs. Leg spinner Abdul Qadir had three for 75, while skipper Imran Khan and Saif Jaffer took one each.

Pakistan's highest score in one-day internationals on the current tour came after a breezy 142-run stand in 93 minutes by skipper Imran Khan and his deputy Javed Miandad as well as Akram's lusty batting late in the innings.

Imran Khan struck two sixes and seven boundaries in his 73 off 65 balls, and Miandad provided support with a solid 78.

Akram hit Chetan Sharma for 25 runs in one over, including three consecutive sixes, during his incredible 21-ball innings containing two fours and four towering sixes.

Romania relies on Steaua players in Albania match

VIENNA (R) — Romania will be relying on the battle-hardened experience of Super Cup Winner Steaua Bucharest when it faces Albania in a European Soccer Championship Group One qualifying match today.

Romanian coach Emerich Jenei has included nine Steaua players in his 20-man squad for the tie to be played at the Steaua stadium and will be hoping its teamwork will help to victory and the leadership of the group.

Romania is currently second in the group after crushing Austria 4-0 last September and then losing 1-0 in Spain while Albania languishes at the bottom after

defeats by Spain and Austria. It will be the first meeting between the two teams in 14 years.

Despite its position and the fact that Romania has won seven of the previous 11 matches between the two, Albania showed during its 2-1 defeat by Spain in Tirana last December that it is no longer the push-overs of old.

The Romanians, however, with Steaua stalwarts like defenders Stephan Iovan and Adrian Bumbescu, midfielder Ladislau Boloni and forward Victor Piturca among their ranks, should experience few problems in establishing themselves at the top of Group One.

Sokolov postpones 11th game after loss to Karpov

LINARES, Spain (AP) — Andrei Sokolov took a time out Tuesday, postponing the 11th game of his World Chess Championship candidates final with Anatoly Karpov until Thursday.

Karpov leads 6.5-3.5 after scoring a brilliant victory in a tenth game on Monday night.

Karpov requires only one win or two draws from the remaining four games to defeat Sokolov and qualify to play fellow Soviet Garry Kasparov for his world title in the autumn.

A win scores one point and a draw one half.

After his defeat Monday night Sokolov, 24, left the playing hall looking shattered.

His only hope in the match would be to score a victory in the 11th game with the advantageous white pieces. So far, however, Sokolov has been unable to blow a hole in Karpov's solid Caro-Kann defence.

7 skiers killed in avalanche

BLUE RIVER, British Columbia (R) — Seven skiers were killed after caught in an avalanche in southeastern British Columbia, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman said.

Sergeant Frank Baruta said the seven were among a group of 12 people on an organised ski tour using a helicopter. The group included a guide, one of the five survivors.

A clerk at the lodge where all the skiers had been staying said most of the group was from the U.S. west coast, although at least one was from Europe, possibly Germany.

Baruta said all seven bodies had been recovered and were being transported to a nearby town. There was no immediate identification of the victims.

It was the first serious incident involving skiers in British Columbia this year. Avalanches have taken the lives of many skiers who used helicopters in past years.

Jarryd defeats Pimek to advance in Belgian tennis

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Sweden's Anders Jarryd beat Czech Libor Pimek 6-3, 6-3 Tuesday and Israeli Gila Bloom dominated Christophe Genkens of Belgium 6-3, 6-2 to reach the second round of the \$315,000 Belgian Indoor Championships of Tennis.

Jarryd will meet the winner of the match between Spain's Davis Cup star Sergio Casal and Soviet Andrei Chesnokov, who play later. Second-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden also opens his campaign in the week-long tournament.

Top-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany and American John McEnroe play their first matches today.

The 25-year-old Jarryd controlled Pimek throughout the match and was never hard-pressed to reach the second round in less than 90 minutes.

Bloom, playing in his first Grand Prix event outside his native country this year, had even less problems to dispose of local qualifier Genkens. The 20-year-old, in his second year as professional, reached the second round in less than an hour.

He will meet compatriot Amos Mansdorf, who qualified Monday, in the second round of this Grand Prix event.

Other qualifiers on Monday were Swiss Jacob Hasek, Swede Jonas Svensson, Australian Carl Limberger and Simone Colombo of Italy. The winner earns \$50,000 while the first-round losers took home \$2,125.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

French woman wins Colombian cycling

BOGOTA (R) — Jeannie Longo of France became the champion of the first women's bicycle tour of Colombia after dazzling thousands of fans by winning eight of the race's nine stages. Showing excellent physical condition and expertise in all categories, the 28-year-old French champion outclassed more than 50 rivals from Italy, the United States and Colombia. Longo swept the overall, mountain and regulation prizes and helped France win the team category as well. The final stage Monday, the only one Longo did not win, was won by her compatriot Cecile Audin, who covered the 68.9 kilometres in one hour 35 minutes and six seconds.

120 countries send flags to Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Over 120 countries, including eight from Eastern Europe, have sent copies of their national flags and tapes of their national anthems for use during next year's Seoul Olympic Games, organisers said Tuesday. "This indicates that a record number of countries will participate in the Games," an official of the Seoul Olympic organising committee said. The deadline for receiving flags and national anthems from the 167 member countries of the International Olympic Committee is Dec. 31, the organisers said. Seoul, which has no diplomatic relations with Communist countries, fears North Korea may try to organise an Eastern Bloc walkout unless the Games are jointly hosted by the two Koreas.

Oxford's crew member is heavy man

LONDON (AP) — Despite probably starting as underdog, Oxford will have the heaviest and tallest man in boat race history when it takes on Cambridge in the annual rowing challenge between the two famed British universities on Saturday, it was announced. Gavin Stewart tipped the scales at 231 pounds at the official weigh-in in London, two pounds more than the previous record holder. At six feet, eight inches, he is also the tallest rower to take part. Oxford also breaks new ground with President Donald MacDonald who, at 31, is the oldest person to row in the race, while Cambridge has the youngest in Matthew Britton who is just 18 and seven months.

Former cricket star marries model

TREASURE ISLAND, Fiji (AP) — Former Indian cricket star Farokh Engineer was married on Tuesday to a former British airline hostess and model on this Fijian resort island. Engineer, 48, married Julie Clarke, 18 years his junior, in a simple ceremony performed on the sun-swept white sands of the tiny island. The bride wore an antique lace cream wedding gown and the groom a cream tuxedo as they exchanged vows for a Methodist minister who made the half-hour motorboat trip from Lautoka, Fiji's second largest city, for the occasion.

British boxer injured in accident

DYFED, Wales (AP) — British featherweight champion Robert Dickie was hospitalised Tuesday with a broken back suffered in an automobile accident. Doctors said Dickie broke a small bone in his spine when the car he was driving overturned. The boxer was thrown from the vehicle and landed on a grassy bank, where he was found unconscious, authorities said. Five other people in the car escaped the Monday accident with only minor injuries, they added. Dickie, from Dyfed, Wales, won the vacant featherweight title last April with a decision over England's John Feeley in London. He successfully defended his crown against Feeley last October.

Soviets, S. Koreans are archery rivals

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Archers from the Soviet Union and South Korea dominated the action Tuesday, opening day of 34th World Championships at the Victoria Park racetrack. Vladimir Eschen of the Soviet Union led the men's competition with 621 points, ahead of Hong Jong Koo (619) and In-Su Jeong (613), both of South Korea. Bernhard Schreppel of West Germany and Steven Hallard of Britain shared fourth place on 611. The Koreans held first and second place in the women's competition with Heekyung Wang leading on 637 points, ahead of Jeong-Ah-Park, who shared second spot on 635 with Ludmila Arzhamnikova of the Soviet Union and Yawen Yao of China.

Poland drops Koniarek for drinking

WARSAW (R) — Marek Koniarek has been dropped from the Polish squad for the soccer friendly against Norway following reports that he had been drinking, a sports official at the official PAP news agency confirmed Tuesday. The Polish press reported that Koniarek was expelled from the Poles' training camp in Wroclaw, where the match is being played, "on charges of being under the influence of alcohol." Koniarek was punished further after the incident when officials of his club Katowice decided to fine him and ban him for three months. The ban was suspended for six months.

Charismatic president of Atletico dies

MADRID (R) — Vicente Calderon, the self-made millionaire who took Atletico Madrid from near-bankruptcy to the peak of Spanish soccer, died Tuesday at the age of 73, a hospital spokesman said. Calderon, one of the dominant personalities in the Spanish game during his 20 years as the club's president, suffered a brain haemorrhage at his home on Sunday and never recovered consciousness. The Spanish Football Federation announced there would be a minute's silence at all of Wednesday night's league matches — among them, the Madrid derby between Atletico and Real — and said all players would wear black armbands.

Malta announces team for Portugal tie

VALLETTA (R) — Maltese soccer coach Gentscho Dobrev has named a 16-man squad for Sunday's match in Madeira against Portugal in Group Two of the European Championship qualifying matches. There are no new caps but midfielder Michael Woods returns after a year's absence due to injury. Goalkeeper John Bonello is omitted at his own request and striker Leonard Farrugia is injured. Malta has lost its three matches so far in the group, two against Italy and one against Sweden. Dobrev said his team would play cautiously but would not be too defensive.

Barcelona soccer suffers from rich British diet

MADRID (R) — Barcelona, the free-spending glamour club with an insatiable appetite for the cream of soccer talent, is suffering from another bout of indigestion.

Coach Terry Venables delved into the larder last Friday and brought Steve Archibald out of cold storage to replace Welsh centre-forward Mark Hughes, hoping that a dose of Scottish spunk would revive his sickly side.

But four defeats in six games, during which time the team has been knocked off the top of the Spanish First Division and out of the UEFA Cup, have convinced many Catalan fans that the club must abandon its stodgy British diet altogether.

Venables brushed aside speculation about a change of regime by announcing at the weekend that Barcelona President Jose Luis Nunez had offered him a new two-year contract immediately after last Wednesday's anaemic display against Dundee United in the UEFA Cup.

"That seems like a vote of confidence to me," said the 44-year-old Englishman, who has been the subject of media speculation about a move to Italy's AC Milan after three years in Spain.

But he did little to ease the pressure from supporters and some directors for an injection of new managerial blood by insisting

that he would decide on his future at the end of the season.

Meanwhile, Barcelona's fragile health is threatened with further complications on Thursday when a labour tribunal is due to hear a lawsuit brought by Bernd Schuster, the wayward West German axed by Nunez and Venables at the end of last season.

Cries of "Nunez no, Schuster yes" echoed round a half-empty Nou Camp Stadium after the 2-1 defeat at Dundee United, reflecting a widespread feeling that organisation, hard work and brute force are no substitute for the blond midfielder's creative skills.

Venables and Nunez vowed after the debacle of last season's European Cup final that Schuster would never play for them again. Angry at being substituted, the former captain had stormed out of the stadium before the penalty shootout which gave Steaua Bucharest the trophy Barcelona has never won.

His lawsuit — based on a claim that the club does not give him proper employment because England's Gary Lineker has taken his place as one of the two registered foreign players — is very much a personal battle against the coach and president.

A Schuster victory would certainly strengthen the hand of boardroom dissidents, whose anonymous mutterings have littered the Spanish press in recent

days.

"This club can't risk getting to the end of the season and the coach saying we've lost everything, I'm going," one such disgruntled director told the Barcelona daily La Vanguardia.

"We've given him (Venables) everything. He said he had problems with forwards, we let him sign whoever he wanted... It's always the same when we let the coaches sign who they want," said another.

Last summer's signings of Lineker, top scorer in the Mexico World Cup finals, and Welshman Hughes for a total of \$6.4 million was very much keeping with the club's traditions.

So, too, is the prospect of

Hughes returning to Manchester United after completing less than 12 months of his eight-year contract.

Spurred by an age-old rivalry with Real Madrid, Barcelona has spent millions on the best that world soccer has to offer.

Players such as Johan Cruyff, Diego Maradona and Schuster have come and gone and eight different coaches, including Cesar Menotti, who guided Argentina to victory in the 1978 World Cup, and Venables himself, have tried in vain over the last nine years to lift the European Cup which Real has won six times.

But the Venables era is not over yet.

Revived Boston Marathon attracts quality runners

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Marathon, left behind in the early race to commercialism by its rival races, has charged back to the front of the pack in only its second year of offering prize money.

The field for the 90th running of the prestigious event, set for April 20, is one of the finest of any recent marathons.

"Any authority will say it's the best field since the (1984) Olympics and a lot of them are now saying it's better," said Jack Mahoney, special events coordinator for John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., the Boston company that sponsors the race.

Big names will crowd the starting line in Hopkinton, a small, rural community west of Boston.

They include: Juma Ikangaa of Tanzania, the world's top-rated marathoner last year by Track and Field News; Rob De Castella of Australia, ranked second last year and the defending champion; Steve Jones of Great Britain, who was ranked first in 1985; and John Treacy, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist from Ireland.

Three other former Boston Marathon winners — Bill Rodgers, who won four times, Geoff Smith, who won in 1984 and 1985, and Greg Meyer, who won in 1983 — are entered. Toshihiko Seko of Japan, the 1981 champion, is a possibility.

The women's field also is impressive, headed by 1984 Olympic bronze medalist Rosa Mota of Portugal and 1984 Boston winner Lorraine Moller of New Zealand.

Joan Benoit Samuelson, who holds the course record for women set in 1983, reportedly is considering running. Defending champion and world record holder Ingrid Kristiansen has not said whether she will compete, according to Mahoney.

The Boston Marathon, first run

in 1897, has the most tradition of all current marathons. But that wasn't enough to keep attracting runners who were lured by appearance and prize money at other races.

But now marathoners' leading performers are drawn to the pot of gold that awaits them at the end of the 26-mile, 385-yard (42-kilometer) journey into Boston.

The winner of the men's and women's divisions each gets \$40,000, up \$10,000 from last year, and a new luxury car. Prize money, down to \$1,000, will be given to the top 15 finishers among both the men and women.

The absence of such rewards in the past at the world's oldest annually conducted marathon had damaged its stature.

While runners at marathons in New York, Chicago and many other cities around the world were being compensated, the traditionalists at the Boston Athletic Association, which organizes the Boston Marathon, resisted the trend.

The top runners fled and the races became less competitive. That shouldn't be the case this year.

BAA Administrator Guy Morse said he's not surprised that the race has come back so strongly after falling so far.

"I did expect it to react this quickly," he said. "It was a monumental decision that the BAA made as far as offering prize money. Once we made that decision, just based on the reaction of the running community and the reaction of potential sponsors, it was clear it was the right decision."

Unlike other races, top runners aren't paid just for showing up at the starting line. Rather than appearance money, they are paid under contracts that requires them to conduct running clinics with students and around the United States.

U.S. INCOME TAX ADVICE

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7:00-9:00 p.m. American Center, 3rd Circle, Jabal Amman

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Swiss bankers announce curbs on secrecy

ZURICH (R) — Swiss bankers announced a series of long-awaited measures Monday aimed at preventing abuses of their country's tight banking secrecy laws.

The steps follow renewed controversy over the use of secret Swiss bank accounts prompted by recent allegations that both former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and U.S. officials linked with the arms-for-Iran scandal had accounts here.

In a statement, the Swiss Bankers Association said they wanted to curb the right of bank clients to hide their identity behind lawyers.

The association would also require banks to establish the identity of anyone making a cash transaction at the counter worth more than 100,000 francs (\$65,000), against the current threshold of 500,000 (\$330,000).

Banks would continue to be required to ascertain the identity of all clients not acting through lawyers and pledge to not actively help capital flight, or tax fraud. They would also still face fines of

up to 10 million francs (\$6.6 million) in case of abuse.

"The bankers association is convinced that this new agreement will give the banks an instrument which will guarantee banking secrecy and help the standing of Swiss banking both home and abroad," the association said.

The code, once approved by member banks, will go into force on Oct. 1. The original dates from 1977.

Freezing accounts

Meanwhile, a Swiss bank has been ordered to freeze accounts thought to have been involved in an insider trading scandal in the United States, a Justice Ministry spokesman said Monday.

Mr. Joerg Kistler said the accounts, held at Credit Suisse, belonged to two individuals and three companies, including Mr. Nahum Vaskevitch, former head of the London office of the biggest U.S. stock brokerage house, Merrill Lynch and Co.

The accounts were blocked under a treaty on legal assistance between the United States and Switzerland aimed at facilitating criminal investigations which might otherwise remain hidden under the veil of Swiss banking secrecy.

The order prohibits transactions on the accounts for an initial period of 30 days, after an emergency request from the United States arrived last Friday.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which supervises stock market trading, alleged this month that Mr. Vaskevitch and an Israeli associate, Mr. Daniel Sofer, were behind an insider trading ring which netted profits of \$4 million.

The order freezes accounts owned by Mr. Vaskevitch and Mr. Sofer as well as those of the companies Plennner Ltd. and Meda Establishment, Mr. Kistler said.

He declined to name the third company, since it was not clear what role it played.

A spokesman for the bank said he was aware of the order. "Now we have to find out what is on the accounts," he said. He declined to give further details.

The SEC alleged in a New York court last week that Mr. Sofer transferred \$1.9 million from a U.S. bank account of the company Plennner to an account at Credit Suisse.

"The Americans put two and two together and came looking here," Mr. Kistler said.

The procedure this time closely paralleled last December's efforts by the U.S. Justice Department to unravel the Iran-contra scandal.

An emergency request, documenting the possible involvement of the accounts was lodged with the Swiss authorities in Bern to prevent funds being transferred while investigations were still under way.

The United States now has 30 days to make a formal request for legal assistance, which, if accepted, would make the freeze an indefinite one.

Arabsat said rescheduling foreign debt

KUWAIT (R) — Arabsat Communications Satellite Co. has reached initial agreement to reschedule nearly \$80 million of foreign debts, its general manager said in an interview.

The Kuwait News Agency KUNA Tuesday quoted Mr. Abdul Qader Al Baeri as saying the group reached initial agreement to rescheduling for five years with the companies concerned and they were discussing conditions.

"We can say Arabsat revenue until 1992, when a second Arabsat takes orbit, will pay all foreign debts and its operation. What will remain is only financing of the second stage," he said.

Arabsat, representing 22 Arab countries and groups including the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, provides television and telephone links to the Arab League nations.

Mr. Baeri, who arrived in Kuwait on Sunday told KUNA there were more than 1,000 lines now operating, compared with 250 in March last year, and he expected the total to reach 2,000 by the end of this year.

He said a \$40 million agreement was signed with an Arab company which he did not name to rent six channels for five years.

Mr. Baeri said there were 14 ground stations operating in the Arab World and three more in Syria, Libya and Somalia would be opened later this year.

He said the group would discuss the foreign debts at a meeting in Libya next month.

Cash swell causes Taiwan headache

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's foreign exchange reserves, at a new high of \$53 billion, are proving a headache, government officials said Tuesday.

The reserves, up from the previous record of \$51 billion on March 4, are more than double the \$26 billion of late March 1986, official statistics show.

Central Bank Governor Chang Chi-Cheng told reporters the increased reserves were the result of heavy intervention by the bank in the local interbank market.

The bank bought nearly \$2 billion between March 5 and 23, he said.

Mr. Wang Chao-Ming, vice chairman of the Council for Economic Planning and Development, told Reuters the rising reserves were "a big headache for Taiwan."

He added: "Every time we see our reserves swelling, our heart beats faster."

He said the government expected increasing pressure from Washington to reduce its trade surplus with the United States.

Taiwan's trade surplus rose to \$2.73 billion in the first two months of 1987 from \$2.02 billion a year ago, Mr. Wang said.

Nearly 90 per cent of this arose from trade with the United States.

Dollar crashes against yen

TOKYO (R) — The dollar crashed to a record low against the yen Tuesday as speculators finally summoned up the courage to test the resolve of major nations to hold the U.S. currency steady. They found it lacking.

Senior foreign-exchange dealers said they expected the battered American currency to fall even further in the next few days as scepticism grew about the durability of the Feb. 22 pact on currency stability.

As the dollar sank ever lower Tuesday, Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa appealed to other major nations for help in arresting its decline.

Now was the time for major nations to act, he told reporters, but dealers said the market ignored his remarks and continued to sell dollars relentlessly.

In hectic trading, the dollar was hit by a blizzard of selling by Japanese investors, securities companies and exporters. The Japanese central bank was the only major buyer in sight.

Dealers estimated the bank of Japan bought between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion Tuesday, but said its market intervention would prove useless if not joined by the United States.

The dollar closed here Tuesday at 148.80 yen, just above its record low of 148.40 set in the morning but well below Monday's 150.73 close. The previous record closing low of 149.98 yen was set on Jan. 19.

The U.S. currency also dropped against the West German mark, ending the day at 1.8122 against Monday's 1.8190.

The dollar declined more quickly against the yen because currency markets are convinced that America's anger over

Japan's huge trade surplus is mounting. A lower dollar would help reduce that surplus by making American goods more competitive on world markets and Japanese products more expensive.

In Tokyo, New Zealand, Tuesday, U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter again characterised the relationship between Japan and America on certain key trade issues as "very strained."

Behind the renewed dollar drop Tuesday was the belief that last month's Paris accord to foster currency stability was no longer enough to keep operators from pushing the dollar down.

In Paris, Britain, Canada, France, Japan, the United States and West Germany agreed to cooperate to try to hold the dollar steady.

But the market's faith in the agreement was shattered when U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker said over the weekend that the pact did not encompass fixed targets for the dollar, contrary to the market's belief.

"The recent remark by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker that the Paris accord did not set any target ranges for major currencies has cast a shadow on the agreement," said Mr. Koji Kikuchi, general manager of Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank's international treasury division.

He said the market interpreted this as indicating the U.S. government would favour a weaker dol-

lar and had little intention of intervening to support its currency.

"This eliminated the widespread market caution against possible joint central bank intervention," he said.

Most dealers doubt the U.S. central bank will help Japan to support the dollar, although some said this might occur if the dollar fell much below 148 yen.

"If the dollar drops to that low level, it could reduce the flow of Japanese investment in U.S. securities, which the Americans don't want," said Mr. Haruya Uehara, chief money market manager of Mitsubishi Trust and Banking.

He said the dollar may bounce back to around 152 next month as corporations reduced their dollar sales after closing their books for the 1986-87 business year ending on March 31.

But dealers said the longer-term outlook for the dollar remained bearish because of the lacklustre performance of the U.S. economy, including its continuing huge trade deficit, and the delay in Japan's announcement of a package to stimulate its economy.

That package had originally been expected to be announced next month, but has been pushed back because of opposition from Japan's parliament over plans for a sales tax.

"The Americans are getting frustrated at Japan's inertia in stimulating its economy," said Mr. Hirozumi Tanaka, assistant general manager of Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank's international treasury division.

Washington wants Tokyo to boost domestic demand and imports to cut the trade surplus.

U.S. conditions more aid to L. America

MIAMI (AP) — The United States has dangled an offer of \$9 billion in aid before the Inter American Development Bank (IADB). But Treasury Secretary James Baker says the regional body must agree to give Washington more say over where its money goes.

Mr. Baker on Monday tied a proposed increase in support for the bank to changes that would give the U.S. government virtual veto power over loan projects and put greater emphasis on helping programmes that promote free-market economic policies.

Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga, a key U.S. ally in the Caribbean, said the voting proposal was meeting with "strong resistance." But he said he thought a compromise would emerge. Negotiations were expected to continue in a meeting later this year.

"I think the time has come for the IADB to consider this because policy-based loans are really the only effective means for carrying out structural adjustments," said Mr. Seaga, who since 1980 has moved Jamaica from the socialist programmes of Michael Manley's 1972-1980 leadership.

However, a moderate Caribbean colleague criticised the United States as trying to usurp

"one-man, one-vote." "The next move they will make is telling the respective countries what types of government they should have before they receive loans," Barbados Prime Minister Errol Barrow told Radio Jamaica.

Mr. Baker told the nearly 3,000 delegates to the meeting that it is important to the developing Latin nations to have a stronger lending bank, but that the United States, with its own deficit problem, wants to be sure its help is well-used.

"The United States is willing to work to secure this funding," Mr. Baker said. "But only if the appropriate checks and balances are adopted and lead to improvements in lending quality."

"In this time of tight budgets in the United States, it is unrealistic not to expect American taxpayers and their representatives to want greater accountability for the way their tax dollars are used," Mr. Baker told the opening of the Washington-based lending agency's three-day board of governors meeting.

Mr. Baker said the United States would reinforce its backing of bank development programmes by \$9 billion, an increase of 75 per cent, over the next four years in an overall goal of building up free-market economies

and spurring growth. "Our \$9 billion increase in subscriptions alone would represent more than 70 per cent of the IADB's usable resources," Mr. Baker said. "Yet right now, the U.S. is allowed to vote a share (34 per cent) that is less than half the contribution percentage. In view of this imbalance, we don't believe it is unreasonable to ask for a change."

Mr. Baker told the board of governors of the bank, which channels about \$3 billion a year to Latin and Caribbean nations, that the U.S. request is more for domestic policy reasons than to increase power over the foreign economies.

It would be impossible to secure more funding for the bank loans if Congress and President Ronald Reagan's administration are dubious about its policies, he said.

Current rules allow a simple majority to decide development fund proposals, while the United States wants a 65 per cent majority rule.

The rules give effective control of the bank, established in 1959 to promote the economic and social development of Latin America, to countries that represent 53 per cent of the membership.

Yugoslavia modifies controversial wage law

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia is modifying a controversial wages freeze that triggered nationwide strikes amid signs that Prime Minister Branko Mikulic's government is showing readiness to compromise.

The government announced Monday night it would make the wages law of Feb. 27 more flexible and give special treatment to firms against which it was applied unfairly.

Last weekend, after unprecedented spontaneous strikes and other widespread political dissent, Mr. Mikulic threatened to call in the army to defend the communist system, pledging "no retreat" from his anti-inflationary policies.

On Friday he imposed a partial

prices freeze to parallel the wage freeze. Inspectors will tour the country on Thursday to see that prices of 19,000 goods which skyrocketed this year have returned to end-of-the-year levels.

The amendments announced Monday night will apply to seasonal industries such as tourism and construction, non-productive sectors such as education and health and industries with "long-running production cycles."

Western diplomats said the last category could be an escape clause enabling the government to avoid further industrial confrontations.

"It is difficult to define industries with long-running production cycles. This could be ultimately the white flag of surren-

der," an economist at a Western embassy said.

Under the wage freeze, pay was to return to the average level of the last three months of 1986 and future pay rises were to be pegged to productivity increases over a previous three-month period.

Trade Union officials, workers and factory bosses said this was unfair because productivity was seasonal in many firms.

The law led to huge pay cuts in many organisations as above average end-of-year pay rises were clawed back. More than 70 strikes were reported by the government.

Many Yugoslavs were stunned by Mr. Mikulic's threat of army intervention, which diplomatic

sources said had revived his reputation for toughness in his home region of Bosnia-Herzegovina before he became prime minister last May.

No Yugoslav leader had used the army threat in such a way since 1971.

Diplomats said Mr. Mikulic might be backing down slightly to indicate agreement that the wage law had imperfections and that an across-the-board approach was unjust.

But they said his tough words in recent weeks had strengthened his image at home and abroad, which Yugoslav leaders since the death of Tito in 1980 had found hard to do under the post-Tito system of collective rotating leadership.

India resorts to countertrade

NEW DELHI — "When Mrs. Gandhi was alive your agent would get a call just when you thought you'd won a big project. He'd be told the file on the contract had got stuck on or near her desk and two per cent or more must be paid to the ruling Congress Party to shift it. You still get those calls, but now it's to demand an official countertrade element in the contract."

"Experts in the tortuous art of winning government contracts in the buyers' market of India say that this story, told by a New Delhi businessman, is not quite correct. The percentage cuts for political or other purposes, they say, are still sometimes demanded and the figures are often much larger, despite the anti-corruption policies pronounced by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister.

But the main point of the story is true. Some weeks ago, an unpublished meeting of a cabinet office committee of Indian government department secretaries approved a new policy to begin encouraging extensive countertrading.

The policy, controlled by the ministry of commerce, is that all government departments and agencies are to aim broadly for at least 25 per cent and maybe as much as 50 per cent of countertrade on all projects, excluding costs offset by aid. Negotiations on purchases for commodities and defence equipment are to aim for anything between five per cent and 100 per cent, depending on market conditions.

The policy has not yet been officially announced, nor widely reported. But it is being put into force and is likely to appear in some form soon in tender documents.

Companies are being told that offers of countertrade are a very strong plus factor and that, although they do not rate as highly as financial aid and total price, they might tip the balance between broadly equal offers and are almost essential on bids for defence and commodity contracts.

How hard the government will push for countertrade is not known. But it is clear that ministers and civil servants, expert at playing international competitors off against each other, have another significant negotiating weapon.

Companies affected include CGEE Alstom of France on a major power station contract.

British Rail, Rolls-Royce and British Aerospace from the U.K. bidding for aircraft and railway coach contracts, Bofors of Sweden and various other arms manufacturers, and Boeing, General Electric and a number of electronics companies from the U.S.

Along with countless other contractors and traders they are suddenly being asked to find Indian exports to cover substantial amounts of their contracts.

About half of British Steel Corporation's \$60 million export of billet, strip and railway lines are already covered. Requirements for foreign companies to buy back products from joint ventures they set up in India are being stiffened.

India has therefore joined the growing list of developing and other countries turning to countertrade to save scarce foreign exchange.

"As far back as the 1800s, the Indian economy has only been geared to exporting its surpluses, like the U.S. and it doesn't have well orientated markets," says Mr. Sudhir Mujli, chairman of the State Trading Corporation (STC).

The policy decision has caused a major controversy, partly because of the hidden costs of countertrade and partly because critics say it is being used to boost bureaucratic power by the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), which with the STC is one of India's two influential government-owned trading houses.

"The country gains little more than 10 per cent in additional exports and the consumer suffers higher prices. But the private traders get rich and the trading corporations go for volume-grabbing to increase their turnover to the exclusion of any consideration of quality or value," says Mr. P.C. Luthra, who refused to do any countertrade deals when he was chairman of the STC from 1983 to 1985.

But the MMTC claims it is achieving 50 to 60 per cent extra exports, the remainder being re-routed through existing business. "We try countertrade in buyers' markets, not sellers' when terms could be dictated to us, and we won't pay the countertraders' two to three per cent mark-up," claims Mr. I.P. Hazarika, MMTC's finance director.

— Financial Times news feature.

Ministers agree on need to reform agricultural trade

TAUPO, New Zealand (R) — U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, said Tuesday a conference here of trade ministers from more than 20 nations had reached a consensus on the need to reform agricultural trade.

He did not give details of the understanding, but described it as healthy.

"I think there is a general consensus on what the basic objectives are... at least people seem to be going down the same road and have a common sense of direction and that certainly is valuable," he said.

Mr. Mike Moore, Mr. Yeutter's New Zealand counterpart and host of the meeting, told a news conference: "Two years ago 'agriculture' was a swear word. Everyone now understands the urgency of taking action."

Ministers and other officials at the two-day meeting discussed how to speed up the so-called Uruguay round of international trade negotiations launched last September and held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

(GATT). Agriculture is on the agenda for the first time but Mr. Willy De Clercq, external relations commissioner of the European Community (EC), had suggested earlier to reporters here that it was less urgent than other issues.

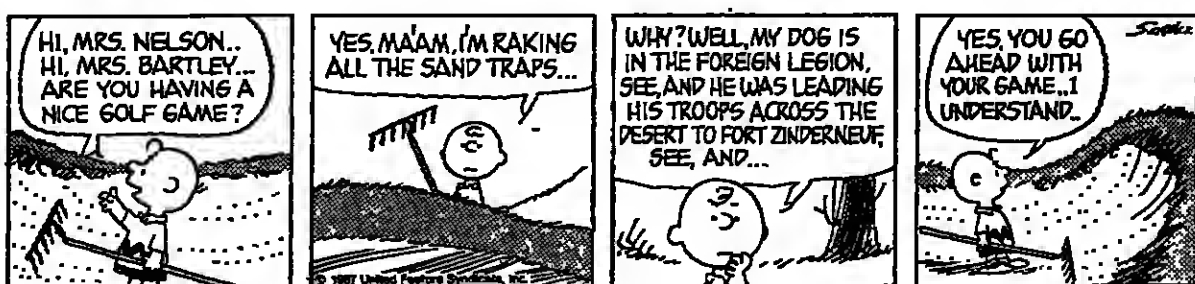
"Mr. De Clercq is fine about that so long as it is part of a global framework, that one group isn't picking their favourite subject and saying, 'fast-track my concerns but leave your concerns until next year.'"

Mr. Yeutter earlier told journalists there still would be some years of tough negotiations.

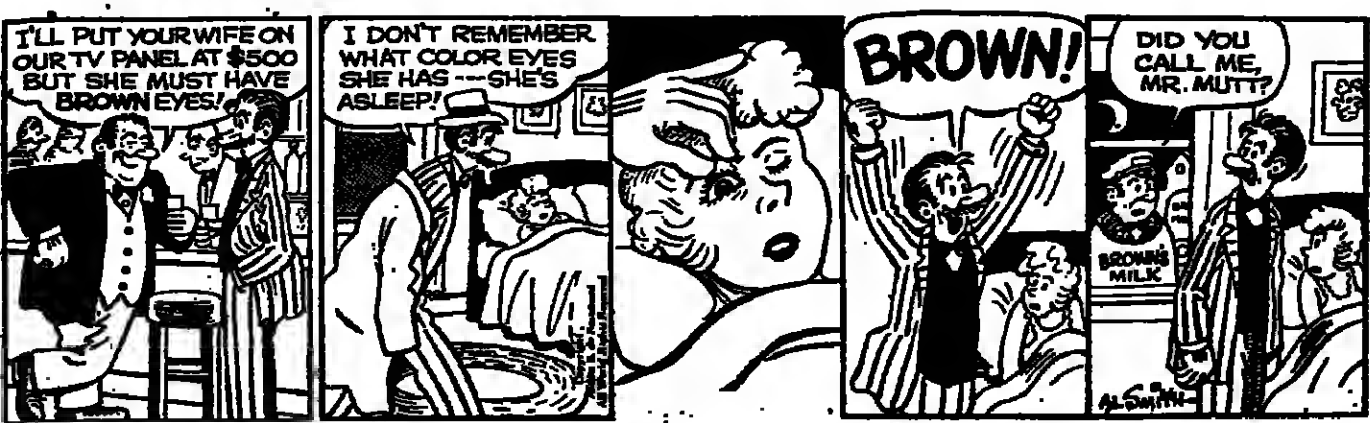
He said the United States spends \$26 billion annually to support agriculture and the EC probably even more.

"It is ludicrous for the nations of the world to plough immense amounts of financial resources into the production of items that nobody wants to buy. We all ought to have better sense than that and we all ought to be moving away from this kind of policies," he noted.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



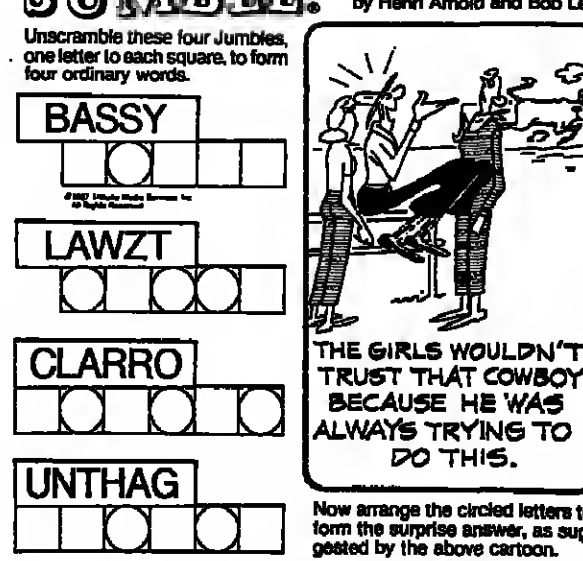
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



London Exchange Rates and London Stock Market not received

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Carbomb injures 31 at U.K. base in W. Germany

RHEINDAHLEN, West Germany (AP) — Investigators said Tuesday they suspect leftist terrorists staged the car bombing at the British Armed Forces' headquarters in West Germany that injured at least 31 people.

The Monday evening blast at the British Army of the Rhine and Royal Air Force headquarters blew a hole in the ground three metres wide, heavily damaged the mess hall, shattered windows in buildings within several hundred yards and destroyed about 20 cars parked nearby.

Seven people remained hospitalized Tuesday, while 24 others had been treated for minor injuries, a British military spokeswoman said. None of the injuries were considered life-threatening, officials said.

Officers and their wives were holding a farewell party at the mess hall when the bomb went off, said Col. Michel Baugnot, chief press spokesman for the British forces in West Germany. As of Tuesday morning, there was no claim of responsibility for the bomb.

But Alexander Prechtel, a spokesman for the chief federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, said either the West German leftist Red Army Faction or the Irish Republican Army (IRA) were believed to be behind the blast.

"It could be German terrorists. It could be the IRA. Theoretically, that is possible," he said. "Judging by the fact that it was a car bomb and the size of the bomb, and considering the object of the attack, one would suspect the Red Army Faction or the IRA," he said.

Mr. Prechtel said he did not know whether the IRA had previously attacked British military installations in West Germany. The British military spokeswoman refused to comment on all questions concerning the IRA and the investigation into the blast.

Three killed in IRA gun and bomb attack

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — A civilian employed in the prison service and two police detectives had been killed in a gun and bomb attack in Londonderry, police said. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility.

The mainly Roman Catholic IRA, which claimed responsibility in a message to Belfast news organisations, has declared police and prison staff legitimate targets in its guerrilla war to drive the British from Northern Ireland.

A press officer at Belfast Police Headquarters said gunmen shot the prison service employee in the head as he sat in his car in the grounds of Magee College Campus, part of the University of Ulster.

The slain civilian worked at Magilligan Jail near Londonderry. Students who called police to the scene said the gunmen fired four or five shots through the car windows.

The two detectives died when a booby-trap bomb the gunmen had placed in the car before fleeing exploded as the officers

were removing the civilian's body from the vehicle.

Police had waited about 30 minutes before they considered it safe enough to remove the body from the car. But as they did so the bomb exploded, hurling debris in all directions and turning the car into a fireball.

The press officer, who in accordance with British practice declined to be named, said the two police victims were members of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's predominantly Protestant police force.

Police and troops sealed off the college campus, and students moved from their residential blocks on the campus to nearby temporary accommodation. Army bomb disposal experts using sophisticated electronic equipment and sniffer dogs searched the area in case other bombs had been planted. None were reported found.

The three deaths bring the toll since sectarian and political violence flared in Northern Ireland in 1969 to at least 2,537.

Snow hampers search for U.S. jet, crew

RIVERSIDE, California (R) — The search for the missing jet fighter piloted by entertainer Dean Martin's son Dean Paul Martin was hampered by rugged, snow-covered terrain and scattered wreckage of other aircraft.

Martin, a 35-year-old captain in the California Air National Guard, was one of two crewmen of an F-4 Phantom jet that disappeared from radar screens on Saturday while crossing the rugged San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles.

A search for the downed aircraft was delayed by bad weather until daylight Monday. Eight military aircraft, including helicopters, scoured an area around San Geronimo Mountain, at 11,485 feet (3,500 metres) the highest peak in southern California, until dark without finding

any signs of Martin's plane.

The search, including ground crews who are hiking into the area, were expected to resume soon after sunrise Tuesday, a spokesman said.

"One of the problems they've faced is that there is a lot of aircraft wreckage up there, a lot of planes have been lost in that area, so they've been getting a lot of false leads," said Master Sergeant William Nicoletti of the National Guard.

He said two to four feet (60 cms to 1.2 metres) of snow had fallen on the mountain since Martin's fighter was reported missing less than 10 minutes after takeoff from March Air Force Base Saturday afternoon on what was called a routine training mission with two other F-4C jets.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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LISTEN TO THE BIDDING

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

| | | | | |
|-------|----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| NORTH | ♠ A J 2 | ♥ 7 | ♦ Q 9 6 4 | ♣ J 10 5 4 2 |
| WEST | ♠ K 10 3 | ♥ Q 7 6 5 4 | ♦ J 10 5 4 3 | ♣ 10 8 6 2 |
| | ♦ 10 5 2 | ♣ 10 3 | | |
| | ♠ 9 8 6 | ♣ A 7 | | |
| SOUTH | ♠ 9 8 | ♥ A K Q 9 | ♦ A K 8 7 | ♣ K Q 3 |

The bidding:

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass |
| 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening lead: ♠

"There are no blind opening leads; just deaf opening leaders," wrote the bridge scribe. This hand bears eloquent testimony to his observation.

Since North-South can make a slam in either minor suit, the auction could hardly be described as a thing of beauty. Perhaps South could have been a little more enterprising at his third turn. However,

The spokeswoman, who declined to be identified, said German police still were investigating the area of the blast on Tuesday morning.

Bomb blasts at other NATO military bases in West Germany in recent years have been claimed by the Red Army Faction.

Mr. Prechtel said all of the injured apparently had been inside the mess hall when the bomb exploded in a car outside. He said it appeared that public access to the officer's mess hall was unrestricted, meaning anyone could have driven a car into the parking lot without first showing an identification card.

Earlier, German police had said they believed terrorists had set the bomb.

"We're assuming there is a terrorist background to this incident," said Burkhard Grassmeier, an investigating prosecutor.

Moenchengladbach police spokesman Ulrich Palluck said the explosion heavily damaged the mess hall, shattered windows in buildings within several hundred metres.

Haig to run for president

NEW YORK (R) — Former White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of State Alexander Haig has said he would run for president, an office he has been accused of acting like he already holds.

Gen. Haig, 62, told a glittering black tie fundraiser in his honour at a posh New York Hotel that he would seek the Republican nomination for president.

He was joined by his wife, children and grandchildren as a band played "Alexander's ragtime band" and red, white and blue balloons descended.

Gen. Haig, a controversial political figure, was praised for holding the White House together during the last years of the Nixon presidency but criticised for declaring he was "in control" after President Reagan was shot in March 1981.

Gen. Haig will reveal details of his presidential campaign at a news conference which he described as his "formal announcement."

"What I offer is leadership ... to take our country safely into the next decade, to build a more prosperous America ... and leadership, above all, of an America willing and able to keep the peace," he said in a speech.

Although often critical of the Reagan administration's foreign policy, Gen. Haig landed the president in his speech as the man who "helped America to be proud again."

But there was a hint of criticism when he declared: "A president leads when he understands that openly communicated policies, even if secretly arrived at, are the only policies that merit enduring support."

Several political observers took that as a reference to Mr. Reagan's handling of the secret Iran arms deal which was conceived in secret and disclosed only after a Lebanese magazine learned of it.

In Amman, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Tuesday he would not choose Gen. Haig as a presidential candidate.

Asked to comment, Mr. Carter, who was Democrat president from 1977-80, told reporters on arrival from Syria: "He will not be my choice, as a Democrat or Republican."

The news follows speculation that Mr. Hu still enjoys considerable

Filipino warlord, beauty queen to run in elections

MANILA (Agencies) — A Muslim warlord, an ex-beauty queen who was once a guerrilla and a former government minister accused over the Benigno Aquino assassination joined about 1,000 other hopefuls Tuesday in the race for election to the Philippines' new two-house Congress.

Campaigning began in earnest Tuesday for what analysts say will be the first fully democratic legislature in 15 years, after a midnight deadline for the declaration of candidacies for the 250-member House of Representatives.

Two hundred of the seats are up for election, with the other 50 appointed by the president from disadvantaged groups.

Campaigning for 24 Senate seats began two weeks ago. The election for both houses is on May 11.

President Corason Aquino has repeatedly called on candidates and voters to ensure the poll is the cleanest in the country's turbulent electoral history.

An official Commission on Elections (Comelec) list of 948 House of Representatives candidates had many new names on it, giving hope that a new brand of politics might be emerging in the Philippines, election officials said.

They said there were also several prominent old names, including stalwarts of former President Ferdinand Marcos whom critics say are being funded by the exiled leader.

Former Tourism Minister Jose Aspiras, who is facing conspiracy charges over the assassination of Mrs. Aquino's husband Benigno, is running as an independent for the House of Representatives, Comelec officials said.

State prosecutors have filed conspiracy to murder charges against Mr. Aspiras over the August 1983 killing.

The election officials said Ali Dimaporo, a Muslim warlord who commands a formidable private army on the southern island of Mindanao, was also standing for the House of Representatives.

Maita Gomez, a former beauty queen who discarded her tiara to go to the hills as a Communist guerrilla in the 1970s, was also running for the lower house. She is no longer a Communist supporter.

Meanwhile police fatally shot three suspected Communist rebels in Manila, and insurgents killed five civilian defence troops in a Mindanao village, officials said Tuesday.

Capt. Jose Pring said the three suspects opened fire on police after their taxi was stopped at a checkpoint Monday night in the capital's Tondo district.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has reasserted its demand for equal numbers of shorter-range nuclear missiles in Europe. But it rejected as "patently false" a Soviet allegation that it is backing away from a proposed arms control treaty.

The focus of the U.S. demand is a group of about 130 Soviet missiles with a range of 500 to 1,000 kilometres, some of which are based in Eastern Europe.

As an integral element of the treaty now being negotiated in Geneva, the United States wants a guarantee that it can install an equal number of new missiles or build up to a lowered Soviet level.

The treaty itself would eliminate all U.S. and Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. These have ranges of 1,000 to 3,000 kilometres.

Asserting the demand to match the Soviets in the shorter-range category of arms, State Department Spokesman Charles Redman acknowledged Monday that some of the 108 medium-range U.S. Pershing 2 missiles that would be withdrawn from West Germany could be remodelled and left in Europe.

The United States has no weapons comparable to the shorter-range Soviet SS-12 and SS-23 missiles in Europe. The NATO allies have questioned whether a treaty removing medium-range U.S. weapons would weaken their protection against attack.

The United States and its allies issued a statement at a meeting in Brussels in December, calling for "constraints" on shorter-range missiles and for negotiations after a treaty is concluded.

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Indian satellite launch fails

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The maiden flight of India's new satellite-lifting rocket failed Tuesday shortly after what appeared to be a perfect lift off from the southern island of Sriharikota, the United News of India (UNI) reported.

The news agency quoted U.R. Rao, chairman of the government-run Space Research Organisation, as saying that something went wrong with the "strap on" booster motors. He said data to determine the exact cause of the failure had yet to be analysed.

The augmented satellite launch vehicle had surged into the cloudless sky from Sriharikota Island off Andhra Pradesh state at 12:09 p.m. (0639 GMT).

It failed about 52 seconds later, and the operation's mission control centre lost contact with it after 2 minutes and 42 seconds, Mr. Rao was quoted as saying.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who had flown to the island to watch the launch, heard of the failure from Mr. Rao along with newsmen.

"Failure was part of any mission of this magnitude," Mr. Gandhi said, adding that it should not be a setback to the space programme. He told the scientists not to lose heart and to take the event in stride.

The progress of the 40-tonne launch vehicle was being watched closely because the rocket could be used for carrying a medium-range missile. But India has insisted that it will not use its space programme for military purposes.

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Hu returns to China's political stage

PEKING (R) — China's parliament begins its 1987 session Wednesday with former Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang due to make his first public appearance since he was dismissed in January for failing to combat Western ideas.

Mr. Hu will literally return to the political stage as a member of the group presiding over the annual meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC), an official spokesman said Wednesday.

The news follows speculation that Mr. Hu still enjoys considerable

Troops hunt rebels who killed 25 Sri Lankans

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan security forces Tuesday continued a hunt for Tamil guerrillas who massacred 25 Sinhalese civilians in a remote village, a government spokesman said.

A large number of rebels raided Seruvilla village in north-central province Monday and shot and hacked to death eight men, 12 women and five children, the spokesman said.

Officials had earlier said 26 died in the incident.

The spokesman said the guerrillas set fire to houses in the remote village 216 kilometres

north east of Colombo, and threw the bodies of some victims into the fire.

The bodies were charred beyond recognition.

Security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search for the attackers, the spokesman said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali said Tuesday the rebels, members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla group, were killing innocent civilians because they were unable to face the security forces.

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COLUMNS 7 & 8

Judge finally legitimises love child

LONDON (AP) — A love-child born more than 100 years ago won legitimacy in the eyes of the law, 32 years after her death. High court judge John Latey ruled that Edith Steggall, who was born in 1877 and died in 1955, had been made legitimate by the marriage of her parents three years after her birth. The ruling will enable Mrs. Steggall's 72-year-old daughter, Kathleen Cooledge, to share in an aunt's estate. Mrs. Cooledge, of Ipswich in eastern England, had battled for 10 years to have her mother declared legitimate. "It's the end of a very long road. I always believed my mother was legitimate and now the judge has said so," she told reporters after the judge's ruling. The judge said there was "no suggestion from any source that Mrs. Cooledge was greedy or unscrupulous" in trying to have her mother declared legitimate. He also said it was difficult to decide a case involving events which had happened so long ago, but "weighing up the evidence the best I can, I have reached the conclusion that it is more probable" that Charles Bone, who eventually married Edith Steggall's mother, was her father.

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